



Cup By Sophie Gail, Manufacture Lebon Halley, Classical Music, Empire Porcelain



3 200 EUR

Signature : Manufacture Lebon Halley

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Porcelain

Diameter : 16 cm

Height : 12 cm

Description

A slightly flared, straight-sided porcelain cup and saucer, the green background accented with gold, featuring a central medallion in grisaille depicting a cupid pointing to a music book inscribed with "music is charming in its simplicity"; at the bottom, a trumpet and a lyre. The gold border surrounding the medallion bears the inscription in burnished gold, "She has made more than two jealous," as a motto. The handle is made of gilded bisque and features a lion's head. The saucer is decorated in the same style; the rim features motifs associated with theater and music, with a sun in the center engraved with the letter "S" for Sophie. Restorations to the green base of the cup and a few small chips on the base. The rest is in perfect condition. Lebon Halley Manufactory, Paris, Restoration period. Gold mark beneath the

Dealer

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cup.Cup: H. 12 x D. 9.3 cm. Saucer: H. 2.7 x D.

16 cm.Provenance- Collection of Sophie Gail

(1775-1819) or the collection of Sophie de la

Valette (1776-1852), wife of Gay.- Detroyat

Collection.- Private French collection.History

The decoration on this cup directly references the

comic opera "Les deux jaloux" by Sophie Gail

(1775-1819), which was a great success in 1813.

Sophie Gail was born on August 28, 1775, in

Paris. She was the daughter of Claude-François

Garre (1730-1799), a surgeon and major at the

Royal Military School of the Grande and Petite

Écurie, a member of the College of Surgery, and

an academician. According to her husband, she

had received "an education beyond what was

customary for her gender." Like other young

women of her social class, Sophie studied music,

piano, and singing. At age 14, she composed and

published romances, her first works. In 1794, at

age 19, she married the Hellenist Jean-Baptiste

Gail, who was 20 years her senior; they had one

son, Jean-François Gail. She divorced very soon

after, in 1801, and led a free-spirited life; she

would go on to have three more sons by different

fathers. She earned her living as a pianist and

singer, published romances, and composed arias

for the theater in France, London, Vienna,

Germany, and Spain. Her opéra-comique *Les

Deux Jaloux* was a great success in 1813 and

remained in the repertoire until 1839, with more

than three hundred performances. After a few

failures, she returned to success with the premiere

at the Opéra-Comique on April 2, 1818, of La

Sérénade, with a libretto by Sophie Gay. She was

working on new compositions, particularly in the

art of the romance, when she died of a lung

disease on July 24, 1819, at the age of forty-three

in Paris. In 1847, musicologist Adrien de La Fage

(1801-1862) described her as "the only female

composer to have achieved genuine success in the

theater." He advocated for the use of the term

"composer" in reference to her, signifying the

established status and growing visibility of

musical creation by women.

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