A Highly important pair of William & Mary cast Candlesticks made in London in 1692, maker's mark most probably for William Jones.

£59,500



REF: 375841

Mary Cooke Antiques Ltd
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Description

Cast Candlesticks from this early date, and of this unusual design, are extremely rare from England, as so very few were being made in silver. The large, slightly domed, bases have a gadrooned rim and are ornamented by winged putti connected by drapery swags and fruit. The sunken wells are decorated with fluted lobes. The knopped, baluster, stems are decorated with lobing, acanthus spears and the same fruit garlands as seen on the base. The large candle sockets display acanthus spears below a gadrooned everted rim. Each candlestick is fully marked in the decoration on the base and with the sterling mark on the candle socket.The silversmith, William Jones, WI with star below, is illustrated in Jackson's "Silver & Gold Marks" (Pickford edition) on p.137, as seen on a tankard and a two-handled cup, 1685-86. The mark has also been noted on a pair of plain cast candlesticks, London 1683/1684, sold at Christie's, London, 22 June 1960, lot 18. It appears on the 1682 copper plate of makers' marks at Goldsmiths' Hall.David Mitchell in his work on London early maker's has looked into this maker's mark and the most likely silversmith who used this mark is William Jones, free 1642. William, son of Thomas Jones of Carnarvonshire was apprentice to Edward Ragdale for eight years on 4th July, 1634. He was subsequently turned over to Henry Starkey, becoming free on 7th July, 1642, just before the outbreak of the Civil Wars in August. The silver trade collapsed in 1642 and only slowly recovered towards the end of the decade. The first recorded piece of silver by William Jones was dated 1680, so he may well have worked as a soldier after finishing his apprenticeship or stayed in London in the armaments' trade.Due to their importance, these candlesticks were on loan to Number Ten Downing Street, home of the British Prime Minister, from the late 1980's until 2008, however they only appear in loan inventories 1997 - 2008. This is substantiated by the email below from Number 10 Downing Street:"Yes, you are able to reference the candlesticks being on the property during the Blair years (though I cannot corroborate that it was left on the PM’s mantelpiece however for the period that you assume it was here on loan). "
Facilities ManagerPrime Minister’s Office10 Downing Street London SW1A 2AAT: 0207 8073016M: 07425 804387Please join our FM Teams Channel by clicking HERE The Candlesticks are of the finest quality for this early date and are in exceptional condition. They are of museum importance. Height: 7.6 inches, 19 cm.Base Diameter: 6 inches, 15 cm.Weight: 51 oz the pair.

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