

An early George III Chinoiserie Tea Caddy made in London in 1762 by Daniel Smith & Robert Sharp.

Sold



Description

The Tea Caddy is of upright rectangular form embossed and chased in high relief with two scenes. The larger sides displaying a central Chinese character picking tea leaves, with a wicker basket. The background displays bold "c" scrolls, a Chinese obelisk, Rococo shells and a Lion mask at the top, in addition to the lion's hairy paws, giving the impression that it is climbing up the side of the caddy. The other two sides displaying a Chinese building, with palm tree above, on a background of matted and scale work designs, surrounded by raised "C" scrolls. This piece has a hinged cover decorated with a double rose thumb piece, all surrounded by floral sprays and a scroll and acanthus leaf border. The Tea Caddy is in excellent, crisp, condition and is fully marked on the base and with the sterling mark on the cover. The base is also engraved with a contemporary Crest on a chapeau. This very rare design was first produced by Paul De Lamerie and a similar pair of tea caddies, by De Lamerie, 1751, are contained within the Jerome and Rita Gans Collection in the Virginia Museum of Fine Art. The caddies are illustrated on page 78 of the collection catalogue which is attached in the image stream. Daniel Smith and Robert Sharp were very fine silversmiths and made much of the silver for The Prince of Wales, later King George IV when he was furnishing his Carlton House residence on The Mall in London. Length: 4 inches, 10 cm. Width: 3.25 inches, 8.13 cm. Height: 6 inches, 15 cm. Weight: 15.5 oz.