

An important & exceptionally rare pair of George III Covered Barrel Tankards, possibly for twins, made in London in 1789 by William Bennett.

£7,950



Description

Both pieces are modelled in the "Barrel" shape, with a slightly baluster form. The sides are engraved with vertical lines to simulate the staves of the barrel and the raised reeded bands, are modelled as the vertical iron hoops which kept the barrel together. Each has a plain scroll handle and a pierced "chair back" thumb piece. The hinged cover is engraved with circular bands. The Tankards are in quite excellent condition and are fully marked on the side of the main body and on the underside of the cover. Each has an assay slither on the base, which is a desirable feature to see. Considering the maker, William Bennett, he was a quite exceptional silversmith who was apprenticed to John Arnell. He made very fine mugs, tankards, trays and salvers. He had workshops at 2, Half Moon Passage, Aldersgate Street, when these pieces were made. We have had a number of pairs of mugs over the years, however this is the first time we have seen, let alone offered, a pair of tankards with covers. After discussion, it was concluded that they were probably made as a special commission for twins.

Height: 5.5 inches, 13.75 cm.

Diameter at the base: 3 inches, 7.5 cm.

Weight: 32oz, the pair.