
Koopman Rare Art

Director's Choice - Timo Koopman

The Year of the Snake

To celebrate Year of the Snake, I thought it would be the perfect time to introduce my latest Director's Choice. The world celebrated Chinese New Year yesterday and according to Chinese tradition, the Snake is a symbol of good fortune and prosperity, and honouring the Snake is believed to invite positive energy into one's life. Celebrations included decorating homes with red, a colour linked to luck, and lighting fireworks to drive away any negativity or bad spirits. It's a time to reflect, celebrate the present, and hope for a prosperous year ahead.



Known for its intelligence, mystery, and ability to transform, the Snake's qualities are enhanced by this year's Wood element. This year symbolizes growth, renewal, and adaptability, encouraging people to reflect on their paths, embrace change, and seek personal growth.

Our 'Director's Choice' is one of the finest and complete tea and coffee services to have survived in a style almost unique to the goldsmith John Emes. Known for his elegant

neoclassical designs, this magnificent tea and coffee service incorporates wonderful basket weave with anthemion and triumphant palms.



A Fine George III Silver-Gilt Seven-Piece Tea and Coffee Service with Tray

London, 1804 Maker's Mark of John Emes

The tray with maker's mark of William Bennett, London, 1806

Provenance:

His Excellency Mhadi Al- Tajir Collection

A Hong Kong Family Collection.

This exquisite work will be exhibited at the forthcoming TEFAF 2025 in Maastricht.



The service comprising of a hot water kettle on stand with burner, coffee biggin on stand, teapot, covered sugar bowl, covered cream jug, tea caddy, and waste bowl. Each piece oval with a basketwork band at the shoulder and angular ivory handles. The kettle on stand with entwined serpent handle and spigot, each stand raised on three caryatid feet, the oval tray fantastic in its size and gauge and also with a basketwork border. The handles formed as magnificent, entwined serpents.

John Emes was apprenticed in 1778 to William Woollett, goldsmith and engraver obtaining his freedom of the Goldsmiths' Company in 1796. In the same year he entered in partnership with Henry Chawner registering their mark "HC over IE" as 'Plate Workers' at Amen Corner on 27 August 1796. Soon after, owing to semi-retirement of Henry Chawner, the business was mostly managed by John Emes that on 10 January 1798 registered his own mark and the dissolution of the partnership.

John Emes continued to work at Amen Corner until his death in 1808. His work, mostly tea and coffee services, shows a taste for elegant design and fine finish.

Emes died in 1808 at the age of 36. He was buried in St. Paul's Cathedral, London. After the passing of John Emes, the business was continued by his widow Rebecca Emes who, on 30 June 1808, entered a mark with William Emes (brother of John Emes and his

executor acting by 'Virtue of a Power of Attorney').

This mark, "RE over WE", lasted only a few months and Rebecca Emes formed a new partnership with Edward Barnard, leading journeyman of her late husband. New marks were entered on 14 October 1808 (RE over EB into a quatrefoil). The address was Amen Corner, Paternoster Row. Other similar marks were entered in 1818, 1821 and 1825.

The firm was one of the largest working in their period with wide connections in the trade (they supplied plate to Rundell, Bridge and Rundell and to Cattle and Barber of York)

The partnership lasted until the death of Rebecca Emes in 1828.
The business was continued by Edward Barnard and his three sons (see Edward Barnard & Sons history).



For more information on the availability and price of any treasures we mention, please visit our website,
email or call us.

Check all the News
and Discover our
Latest Acquisitions
on our Website!

Visit Our Website



All works shown, unless otherwise indicated, are available to view and purchase
in our gallery located in 12 Dover Street, London, W1S 4LL

For all enquiries please do not hesitate to call or email on:

020 7242 7624 / info@koopman.art

 @Koopman.Art

 @KoopmanRareArt

 Koopman.art

Copyright © 2025 Koopman Rare Art, All rights reserved.

12 Dover Street
W1S 4LL, London
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 20 7242 7624

Email: info@koopman.art

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Koopman Rare Art · 12 Dover Street · London, W1S 4LL · United Kingdom