
Koopman Rare Art

Director's Choice - Timo Koopman A Royal Pair of Bacchic Ewers

The Warwick Vase, an ancient Roman marble vase with Bacchic ornament was discovered at Hadrian's Villa in Tivoli about 1771 by Gavin Hamilton, a Scottish painter-antiquarian and art dealer in Rome. With John Flaxman and Paul Storr creating the first versions in silver, it was to become England's Vase, affirming its owner was a connoisseur of the classics and grand tour. These extraordinary royal vessels for wine incorporate the Bacchic masks, vine tendrils, thyrsi, and grape and vine architecture that are wholly inspired by this famous vase.

They are my Director's Choice as their sublime finish and attention to the detail make these royal ewers amongst the finest, I have ever had the pleasure to handle. We will be exhibiting these stunning ewers at this years **TEFAF Maastricht** which runs from **7th – 14th March**.



The Duke of Cambridge Ewers
A Pair of Royal George IV Silver-Gilt Bacchic Claret Jugs

London, 1830

Maker's mark of John Bridge

Height: 26.5 cm, 10 1/2 in.

Weight: 3,246 g, 104 oz

The initials VR are for Queen Victoria (r.1837-1901), of Great Britain and Ireland.

The crest is for Prince George, Duke of Cambridge K.G., K.T., K.P. (1819-1904).

The lobed bodies chased with acanthus foliage and applied with Bacchic masks and thysi inspired by the Warwick vase, with vine tendril handle and detachable stopper with vine finial, the cover later engraved with the Royal crest within the Garter motto and with Royal Duke's crown above, the necks also engraved with the monogram of Queen Victoria within the Garter motto and Royal crown above, within scroll cartouche.

Each ewer fully hallmarked and stamped with retailer's mark 'Rundell, Bridge Et Rundell Aurificies Regis Londini'

Provenance:

Queen Victoria (r.1837-1901) of Great Britain and Ireland, by descent to her
cousin,

Prince George, Duke of Cambridge K.G., K.T., K.P. (1819-1904).

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge K.G., K.T., K.P. etc., deceased;

Christie's, London, 6 June 1904, lot 258 (£90 to Garrard).

With Garrard and Co., London.

A Gentleman; Christie's, London, 9 July 1997, lot 76.



Prince George, Duke of Cambridge

Prince George spent much of his childhood in Hanover where his father was governor-general. He was sent to England in 1830 to live with King William IV and Queen Adelaide where he was privately educated by tutors. The duke was destined for a career in the army from the age of nine when he was appointed a colonel in the Jäger battalion of the Hanoverian Guards. After the accession of

Queen Victoria, the Duke was made a brevet colonel in the British army and served in Gibraltar, England, and Ireland. He most notably saw active service during the Crimean War in 1854, commanding the first division of the army and fighting at the battle of Alma where his horse was shot from under him. In 1856

he became general commanding-in-chief. He was to serve until his much-resisted retirement in 1895.



The duke was described as 'a bluff, fresh, hale, country gentlemen, with something of the vigorous frankness of the English skipper and something, too, of the Prussian martinet; industrious, punctual, rising early, seeking rest late, fond of life and its pleasures, of good dinners, good cigars, pleasant women, of the opera, of the play', *Society in London*, London, 1885, p. 19. It has been said that his tenure of office as Commander in Chief of the Army for 39 years was noticeable for his opposition to a number of Army reforms, however, he was a strong supporter of military education and founded the School of Military Music in 1857 and was a governor of the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich.

He married, in contravention of the Royal Marriage Act of 1772, in 1847, Sarah, daughter of Robert Fairbrother, a theatrical printer. She was a popular actress in burlesques and bore him three sons who adopted the surname Fitz George.

The 2nd Duke died in 1904 when the dukedom became extinct. He had amassed a considerable silver collection.

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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:

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