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A James I Parcel Gilt Beaker, The Cosier Beaker

London, 1618

Maker's mark HB conjoined, possibly for Hugh Blackhurst or Henry Blackmore

On spreading foot stamped with egg-and-dart border, the tapering body applied on the lower part with a band stamped with circles and engraved around the rim with a band of scrolling foliage above three triangular panels of flowers and scrolls, marked underneath

5. 7 / 8 in. (15 cm.) high 8 oz. (250 g.)

The Cosier beaker is in remarkable condition with finely engraved flower and scroll ornament heightened by delicate gilding. This type of beaker remained a popular form from the 1580s until the mid - 17th century in England and also throughout Northern Europe, as can be seen by the numerous representations of similar beakers in the still life paintings from the Low Countries. The engraved ornament on the Cosier beaker, in common with its shape, is also found on English beakers and examples from the Low Countries. Yvonne Hackenbroch, in her *English and other Silver, The Collection of Irwin Untermyer*, New York, 1969, p. xvii, fig. 6 suggests a possible source for the floral strapwork when discussing a beaker of 1599, cat. no. 18. She illustrates the title page of a pattern book for silversmiths executed by the Dutch draughtsman and map maker Claes Janszoon Visscher (1587-1652), with designs by an anonymous artist P. R. K., *Spits - Boeck Dienstich den Gout en Silversmeden om te Snijdenen Dröven door P. R. K. , published in 1617.*

Exhibitions

London, Seaford House, Queen Charlotte ' s Loan Exhibition of Old English Silver, 1929, no. 77, illustrated (Thomas Taylor). Toronto, Royal Ontario Museum, English Silver: A Catalogue to an Exhibition of Seven Centuries of English Domestic Silver, 1958, no. B34, illustrated (R. C. Cookson).

Literature:

The Scotsman, ' Old Silver, The Thomas Taylor Collection Brings £10, 712, 29 June 1938, p. 13. D. Mitchell, Silversmiths in Elizabethan and Stuart London, Their Lives and Their Marks, Woodbridge, 2017, p. 123, illustrated. T. Schroder, English Silver Before the Civil War, The David Little Collection, Cambridge, 2015, pp. 46, 47, 150, cat. no. 21.