



Paul de Lamerie (1688 - London 1751)

A Magnificent George II Two-Handled Cup & Cover

Silver

London, 1744

Maker's mark of Paul de Lamerie

Height: 22.5 cm, 8.85 in.

Width across handles: 20.7 cm, 8.14 in.

Weight: 2034 g, 65 oz. 8 dwt.

Of inverted bell shape resting on a domed stepped foot that is chased with a band of strapwork. The lower third is decorated with festoons of applied fruit and flowers hang from putto masks against a matted chased ground with engraved foliate shapes. A moulded horizontal band demarcates the mid-section of the cup, overlapped with cast and applied shells at the adjoining base of the handles either side. The reeded scrolling handles, also with applied foliate detail, affix to the main body of the cup with relief chased shells, blending seamlessly into the organic scheme of fantastical ornament.

Read more about this magnificent Cup & Cover, among many other Paul de Lamerie treasure in our blog [A Rare Collection of Paul de Lamerie Silver](#)

Artist description:

Paul de Lamerie arrived in England with his Huguenot parents in or before 1689, having been baptized at 's Hertogenbosch in the Netherlands in 1688. In 1703 he was apprenticed to the Huguenot goldsmith Pierre Platel, and after being admitted to the freedom of the Goldsmiths' Company, he registered his first mark and set up a workshop in Windmill Street, Soho, in 1712. He took thirteen apprentices between 1715 and 1749 who paid premiums varying between £10 and £45m In 1716 he married

Louisa Juliott, also a Huguenot, and by her had six children, three of whom died in childhood. Little more of his personal history is known, although his career in the Goldsmiths' Company is comparatively well documented. By 1717, he was already referred to as 'the King's Silversmith' but again in a complaint 'for making and selling Great quantities of Large Plate which he doth not bring to Goldsmith's Hall to be mark't according to Law.' He joined the livery in 1717; fourteen years later he was elected to the court of assistants. In 1743 he was appointed fourth warden and in 1747 second warden; that he never became prime warden probably due to ill health. From the outset he had wealthy clients such as the Honourable George Treby and the Duke of Sutherland. Among his more important later patrons were Sir Robert Walpole, Baron Anson, and the fifth Earl of Mountrath. A gradual expansion of his business culminated in his move in 1739 to considerably larger premises in Gerrard street. His pre-eminent position in the trade is signified by the commission he received in 1740 from the Goldsmiths' Company to provide two of their most splendid pieces of ceremonial display plate, a silver-gilt inkstand and the famous rococo ewer and dish.