LANGFORDS
Antique & Contemporary Silver

Victorian silver child's mug

John II & George Angell

Sold

Langfords
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REF: 1526

Height: 100 mm (3.94")

Diameter: 65 mm (2.56")

Weight: 194 g

Description

Lovely quality Victorian silver christening cup. The gothic style octagonal body sits on a flared base and both are finely hand-engraved with floral detail within scroll bordered panels and the cast handle also has scroll features. The interior is gilded.

An ever-popular christening gift, children's silver mugs have been around for several centuries. A lidless drinking vessel with a handle, a silver child's mug was traditionally used for serving hot drinks. Although many were made in pewter, silver was the preferred material because it kept the drink hot and did not taint its taste.

Although mugs have been made in a range of graduated sizes (gill, half-pint, pint and quart being the most popular), small mugs were made specifically for children. Some 18th century boarding schools listed a mug as a mandatory item that a boy should take to school.

Most early examples of children's mugs are of a plain baluster shape, designed for their sturdiness and practicality, and in the 1760s a barrel-shaped design appeared, often simply decorated with engraved hoops.

By the mid-19th century, ornate Victorian silver children's mugs emerged featuring exuberant floral and foliate decoration, elaborate engraving sometimes referencing nursery rhymes or traditional fables, and later the inclusion of gothic style cues like this silver mug.

Although Art Nouveau and Art Deco silver children's mugs can be found, most made in the 20th century are recreations of popular styles of the past.

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