

Basic Detail Report



Title Pitcher

Date 1795-1810

Primary Maker William Johnson

Medium Wheel-thrown cream-colored earthenware with underglaze black decoration

Description Barrel-shaped pitcher of cream-colored earthenware, a type of ceramic known as creamware. This is known as a "Liverpool pitcher" because

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many creamware pitchers of this shape with black printed designs were known

to have been made and exported to America from Liverpool, England. The

pitcher has a flat base, swelled sides, and a narrower rim, with a spout opposite

a pulled and applied handle. There are three groups of transfer-printed

underglaze black designs, one on each side, and another underneath the

handle. An area with Masonic symbols is printed to the left of the handle. Two

corinthian columns support an arch that bears the words "Cemented with

Love". An eye, sun, moon, angels, and a triangle are printed in the space below

the arch. Many additional Masonic symbols are printed in the space around the

arch, including a ladder, Noah's ark, a bridge, classical buildings, drafting

equipment, a left hand, and a key, among others. An elaborate design to the

right of the handle also relates to the Masonic orders. A sun and moon look

down over an eye that stares at the viewer. The eye is at the top of a wreath,

composed of various plants, with a "G" inside a star at the bottom. There is a

square and compass to the lower left and a ladder and mason's tools to the

lower right of the wreath. The following phrases are written inside the wreath

"The World is in Pain/ Our Secrets to gain/ But still let them wonder & gaze on/

For they ne'er can divine/ The WORD nor the SIGN/ Of a Free & an Accepted

Mason." The final design, beneath the spout, shows a triangle with lines

emanating from the triangle in the shape of a five-pointed star. The triangle is

surrounded by a few masonic tools and symbols. The initials "T" and "H" are

inside the triangle. The pitcher has three old chips on the foot, which have

darkened with time. There are two areas of loss on the spout, which were placed

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inside a sealed envelope, now in the object file. The sealed envelope is inscribed,

"Pieces of broken spout/ from Masonic Liverpool pitcher/ Broken by glass shelf

August 19, 1971". There are light scratches on the exterior of the pitcher.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width x depth): 9 x 8 1/2 x 4 3/4in.

(22.9 x 21.6 x 12.1cm)