

Basic Detail Report



Title Tankard

Date about 1740, spout and some engraving added in the 1890s

Primary Maker Governor Joseph Talcott

Medium Raised and cast silver

Description Silver tankard with a stepped-domed lid that has a compressed ball finial at the top and a scrolled thumbpiece to one side; the lid is joined to the top of the handle with a hinge. The body of the tankard is cylindrical, with straight sides that taper from bottom to top. The body has molding at the rim, a raised

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band about two-thirds down, and molding at the foot. At one side of the tankard

is an ear-shaped handle with an applied, disc-shaped terminal. A small, raised medallion is located at the top of the handle, near the hinge. Immediately below

this are the engraved initials and date "J * T/ 1690" (initials re-cut, date added).

The exterior surface of the handle is flat, and the interior surface is rounded.

Opposite the handle is a short, curved spout that covers multiple holes punched

through the side of the tankard. Each side of the tankard is engraved (later

addition). To the right of the handle is a coat of arms consisting of a rampant

griffin over a shield. The shield contains a vertical banner with three flowers

down the center. Below the coat of arms is "Joseph Talcott". To the left of the

handle is engraved "Governor of Connecticut/ from/ 1724 to 1742." The lid and

body of the tankard are raised. There is a centerpunch on the underside of the

lid. The finial, handle, spout, and foot are cast and soldered to the tankard. The

tankard has light scratches and only small dents. The spout, the engraved date

on the handle, and the engraving on each side of the tankard are later additions.

The initials "J*T" engraved on the handle may be original to the object, but have

been re-cut. Centerpunch: A centerpunch is a small, recessed point made as the

first step of a technique called raising, used to make silver hollowware. The

silversmith marks the center of a silver disc with a punch, or centerpunch.

Working out from that center point, the silversmith beats the silver disc with a

hammer to form the shape of the finished object.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width with lid x depth): 8 5/8 x 8 x 5 1

/4in. (21.9 x 20.3 x 13.3cm)