



#### CUP WITH HANDLE, FOR HOT CHOCOLATE

London, ca. 1680. Maker's mark Ralph Leake.

Cover with 3 helmet-shaped finials, for covering the hot beverage, and as a coaster for the cup, when drinking. Engraved with tendrils, birds and trees.

H 11.8 cm. 300 g. Silver 925.

Drinking chocolate was introduced into English society in the middle of the 17th century, with the earliest known silver chocolate cup stamped for London around 1685. Ceramic chocolate cups are more common than silver ones, which makes the cup on offer a rarity. See also Louis E. Grivetti and Howard-Yana Shapiro: *Chocolate: History, Culture, and Heritage*, 2011, Fig. 43.3, pp. 1871-1873

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(with Fig.)).

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