

BÖTTGER STONEWARE TEAPOT AND COVER,

Meissen, model by Johann Jacob Irminger, c. 1710.

Reddish-brown, polished stoneware with unpolished relief elements. Of octagonal, conical form with curved spout with eagle head and curved handle. With a cartouche with unpolished crowned coat of arms in the field between the handle attachments, the field above the spout with a mask issuing a connecting support to the spout. The polished cover with palmette finial. Potter's mark: five-pointed star incised below the attachment of the handle.

H 10 cm. D 10.5 cm. Old repair to the handle (Lepke auction, 1925 "gekittet" (cemented)).

Provenance: - Ludwig Darmstaedter

Collection, Berlin, Rudolph Lepke Berlin, auction 24-26 March 1925, cat. no. 110. ill. pl. 29. - Swiss private collection, Galerie Hugo Helbing, Munich, auction 8 May 1930, cat. no. 46, ill. pl. VI. - Acquired from the above and hitherto in a private collectin, Basel. In an inventory of the factory in 1711, this form was listed as an "8Bassige Thee Krügel mit Adler Schnäutzgen". Comparable pieces: Claus Boltz, Steinzeug und Porzellan der Böttgerperiode. Die Inventare und die Ostermesse des Jahres 1719, Keramos 167/168, 2000, p. 110 ill. 135 (today Ludwig Collection, Bamberg). The Bamberg teapot is listed in an inventory that was compiled after Johann Friedrich Böttger's death on 13 March 1719. This inventory included the entire stock of Böttger's brown and white wares in the royal store rooms in Dresden, in Böttger's private rooms, in the factory and in the royal store rooms for the Easter Fair in Leipzig; a further comparable example: Victoria & Albert Museum, London, inv. no. C.108 & A-1940. The story of the stoneware invented towards the end of 1707 by Johann Friedrich Böttger forms the prelude to the founding of the Meissen Porcelain Manufactory in 1710 by Augustus the Strong. The invention of the "braunen oder roten Porcelains" or polished and cut "Jaspis Porcelain", was made possible by a group of experts under the leadership of the physicist von Tschirnhaus, through the Freiberg specialist in mineralogy Pabst von Ohain and the inventive spirit of Böttger. Böttger needed the time up to first major, salable production for the Easter Fair in 1710 in order to find the right compound preparation. For artistic direction he engaged the goldsmith Johann Jakob Irminger. From the archive records of the period, it appears that this early production of Böttger stoneware was already discontinued c. 1713, as the new, white glazed porcelain was extremely sought after and there was hardly any more demand for the so-called brown. (H. Krieger, Aus Norddeutscher Sicht: Meissen und Neues zum Böttgersteinzeug, Keramos 167/168/2000,p. 157-173).

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