

British and Continental Ceramics / Thu, 24th September 2026 / Lot 1554



LOT 1554

A rare English Delft, probably London, 'pipe-smoker' wet drug jar, circa 1665, of typical ovoid shape, the ridged handle opposing a short spout, painted in blue with a label inscribed 'S: ACETOSVS SIM' (syrup of vinegar simple), both ends of the label ornamented with a head appearing to smoke a pipe, the lower middle section of the label with a 'green man' mask, raised on a spreading circular foot, height 21.5cm (minor faults). Note: similar 'pipe-smoker' labelled drug jars are illustrated by Louis L. Lipski and Michael Archer, 'Dated English Delftware', p.368, pl.1595, and p.372, pl.1612. These are each dated examples. In his book 'Delftware: The Tin-Glazed Earthenware of the British Isles', Michael Archer illustrates another drug jar with the same label, p.391, pl.K.1. Here Archer notes the heads, which appear to have pipes in their mouths, actually just have long protruding tongues. Provenance: previously in the collection of Sir Harry Jephcott, 1st Baronet, managing director of Glaxo Laboratories, thence by descent.

Estimate: £2,000 - £3,000

Condition Report

Small chip to outer edge of foot approx 1cm long by 0.5cm wide, with typical minor fritting to top edge of foot. Overall branched network of craze lines to glaze.

Small chips and fritting to end of spout.

Outer edge of top rim with approx 1.5cm long by 0.5cm wide chip to outer edge, and a length approx 6cm long which is roughly nibbled and lacking glaze - please see image 9 on our website using the zoom function.

No restoration.

There are surface scratches to the widest part of the body at either end of the label - almost where the jar has been placed next to others on a shelf with the label facing forward.

There is some pitting to the glaze on the shoulders around the spout - a manufacturing issue.

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