



A Louis XV gold-mounted tortoiseshell snuff box with a miniature

Era: Louis XV, circa 1771-1774.

Materials: tortoiseshell, gold, ivory.

Dim: W 3.14in.(8,5cm) / D 2.36 in. (6,3cm) / H 1.18in. (3,1cm).

Weight: 4.93oz (140 g).

Alaterre jurande hallmark (1768 1775).

Letter date k crowned for 1774.

Goldsmith: J.G.V for Jean Guillaume Vealle.

Oval tortoiseshell powder snuff box with gold mounts. The lid inset with an oval miniature on ivory depicting a young girl in a white costume and a pink belt. This young girl wears a lace headdress with pink ribbons. The treatment of the face is carried out with small touches and small lines. The monochrome background features rear lighting, making this delicate portrait stand out. A monogram is present on the base: J.R 1771. Three letters interlaced in openwork gold and finely chiseled on green velvet. The monogram and the miniature are protected by curved glass. "The miniature is probably of John Russe (1745-1806), baptized by Redgrave 'prince of pastellists', to which George Williamson and the Bonhams auction house attribute some miniatures" after Nathalie Lemoine-Bouchard. The interior of the snuffbox is lined with gold.

Jean Guillaume Vealle (goldsmith master) was received as a master silversmith in 1754 and ceased his activity in 1775. He left fine pieces of silverware, coffee pots and snuffs, some of which are in the Metropolitan Museum in New York.

Bibliographic reference : Nathalie Lemoine-Bouchard. Miniature letter N ° 16 January 2013.