



Early 19th century Perfume Flask in Cut Crystal with gold stopper

Era: early 19th century.

Materials: crystal, gold, leather.

Dim: H 4.5 in (11,5 cm) W 2.3 in (6 cm).

Hallmark: 1st rooster, 1809-1819.

Teardrop-shaped flask in blown and cut crystal. It is embellished with several different decorative patterns: a ridged pattern surrounds the edge; the back side features a rectangular band with a diamond cut pattern and starburst rays above and below the rectangle; and the front side has a rectangle that frames a cartouche that has been left undecorated so that the owner's initials can be added there. The gold, screw top lid is intricately accented with geometric patterns. A small, crystal stopper inside the lid helps preserve the perfume. The flask is stored in its original red leather case. A few small scratches. Circa 1815.

In France, the art of crystal making began to develop during the late 18th century with inspiration from British crystal manufacturers. The mixture of glass with an iron oxide allowed for the creation of heavier and more brilliant finished products. The French Restoration period is considered the golden age of cut crystal, where the Montcenis and Le Creusot production centers developed rich and varied cut crystal pieces. This flask is representative of crystal art crafted during the Restoration.