

SA1060167

A George III Black & Gilt
Jappanned Papier Mâché Tray
by Henry Clay, London. Circa
1800

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1060167

Date of manufacture: Regency

Dimensions

Width = 61 cm (24.0")

Depth = 48.5 cm (19.1")

Description

Decorated with flowers, berry and scattered butterflies with brass handle to either end, stamped to the underside 'CLAY, KING St COVt GARDEN' Clay: A maker of great distinction whose trays can be seen from Frogmore house to the Victoria and Albert Museum. Provenance of this particular example: Wood Hall, Hilgay, Norfolk.

----- Clay, Henry; W. Clay & Sons; H. Clay. Birmingham and London; japanner and papier-mâché manufacturer (fl.1772–d. 1812) Wealth and fame were achieved, based upon a patent taken out on 20 November 1772 for a 'new Improved Paper-ware'. This involved pasting sheets of paper together and then oiling, varnishing and stove-hardening them. It was claimed that the material could be 'sawn, planed, dove-tailed or mitred in the same manner as if made in wood'. The trade in this new material developed rapidly with smaller furniture wares such as tea trays. These were japanned and decorated with painted scenes and classical (Etruscan) and Chinoiserie subjects; The wares that emerged from his works at 19 New Hall St, Birmingham found favour with the rich and influential, and in 1790 his status was such that he was appointed High Sheriff of Warwickshi...

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