

SA1068958

Rare Staffordshire figure of Benjamin Franklin named "Washington", c. 1860

Price

GBP 900

| USD \$1,218 | EUR 1,053

Item Reference: SA1068958**Date of manufacture: 1860**

Dimensions

Height = 40 cm (15.7")

Width = 13 cm (5.1")

Depth = 12 cm (4.7")

Description

Rare antique Staffordshire pottery figure of Benjamin Franklin, mislabelled as George Washington. Made in England, c. 1860, mid-Victorian period. Polychrome enamelling and gilding to the figurine including a cobalt blue jacket, vest with hand-painted flowers, gold-striped breeches, and black shoes. Franklin is carrying a tricorn hat in his left hand and a scroll in his right. Franklin was a diplomat in the court of Louis XVI when the U.S. signed its first treaty with a foreign power and is often depicted carrying diplomatic papers. Gilded accents and signed "Washington" to base in gold. According to the entry for a similar figure at the American Philosophical Society, this ceramic figurine is an adaptation of François Marie Suzanne's 1793 terracotta statuette of Benjamin Franklin. Suzanne's model was frequently reproduced with variations of costume and poses. In Staffordshire, a ceramics manufacturing centre in northwest England, the figure was misidentified as "George Washington," and the misnomer stuck. According to experts in Staffordshire pottery, figures labelled as Washington and actually resembling the first US president are extremely rare. Height 40 cm Widt...

Seller Details

Gillers Antiques Ltd

Buckland House Buntingford Hertfordshire SG9 OPY United Kingdom

Tel: 07738 009924

International Tel: +44 7738 009924

