

SA408105

Large Victorian Sterling Silver Tankard - 1864 - Ship Umgeni - Natal, South Africa

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA408105****Date of manufacture: 1860**

Dimensions

Height = 13 cm (5.1")

Width = 10 cm (3.9")

Depth = 10 cm (3.9")

Description

This is a beautiful and large antique Victorian sterling silver pot-bellied tankard with bold floral decoration and with highly decorative handle. It is inscribed: Presented to Capt. John Stuart Ship Umgeni By the passengers on the homeward voyage From Natal 3rd July 1866. This tankard has a very interesting history. The Umgeni was a wooden ship built by Smith's of Aberdeen in 1864 and it was used on the South Africa route. Trips to South Africa at this time were mainly to take original settler pioneers from the UK to South Africa however this tankard was given as a gift to the captain of the ship on the return voyage to the UK from Natal. The tankard is actually hallmarked for London in 1864 and so it seems it was bought in London and taken to South Africa to be given to the captain on the return voyage and maybe there is in existence a similar tankard that was given on the outward trip. The voyage itself must have been difficult. The trip took over 2 months and was through some of the worst seas imaginable and with a large number of passengers crammed into a small space with no fresh food or water. The tankard weighs 438 grams or 14 ozs, has a 1 1/4 pint capacity ...

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