Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

French Rococo Brass Hot Water Jug, Circa 1780

£45

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REF: 7567

Height: 19 cm (7.5")

Width: 13 cm (5.1")

Depth: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A handsome late 18th-century French brass hot water jug, dating to circa 1780, with an elegant baluster-shaped body and a richly scrolling Rococo handle. Combining practical function with refined decorative design, this substantial vessel is a fine example of the sophisticated domestic metalwork produced in France during the final decades of the Ancien Régime.

The jug's swelling, vase-like form is beautifully balanced by its slender neck and gently spreading foot, creating a graceful silhouette typical of the period. Its handle is particularly appealing: boldly cast and shaped in the Rococo manner, with flowing curves that enliven the otherwise restrained form. The warm brass surface has acquired a mellow, softly varied patina over time, enhancing its sculptural quality and historic character.

Originally intended for serving hot water at table or in a bedroom setting, this type of jug would have formed part of the well-appointed household. Its robust construction and generous proportions reflect its functional purpose, while the refinement of the handle and classical baluster profile reveal the importance placed on elegance in everyday objects.

Now equally compelling as a decorative object, the jug would sit beautifully in a kitchen, dining room, library, or country-house interior. It offers a strong blend of utility, craftsmanship, and period presence, and would appeal to collectors of French antiques, 18th-century metalware, and Rococo decorative arts.

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