

The Frick Collection: Detail Report



Elephant-Shaped Wine Dispenser

Du Paquier Porcelain Manufactory (Austrian, 1718–1744)

Date 1740

Medium Hard-paste porcelain

Dimensions 9 1/8 × 18 1/4 × 6 in. (23.2 × 46.4 × 15.2 cm)

Credit Line Gift from the Melinda and Paul Sullivan Collection, 2016

Accession Number 2016.9.02

Currently On View

Second Floor, Room 26, Du Paquier Passage

Commentary This is one of the most extraordinary pieces produced by the Du Paquier manufactory. It may have originally been part of an elaborate centerpiece, as was a similar piece made for Empress Anna Ivanovna, about 1740 (now in the State Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg). The Hermitage dispenser stands above a rotating silver platter on which eight dancing figures hold cups ready to receive sweet Tokay wine from the elephant's trunk. The elephant is ridden by a figure of Bacchus that can be lifted to fill the cavity with wine. Elephants were favorites of the czarina, who received one as a gift from Persian emissaries in 1736 and presented a full-size model in a festival she staged on the frozen Neva River in 1740. Although it seems that the Frick elephant was also originally painted, its current pure white surface allows the animal's sculptural details to be clearly seen. This work is included in the exhibition, *Fired by Passion: Masterpieces of Du Paquier Porcelain* from the Sullivan Collection, June 8, 2017 to August 12, 2018 at The Frick Collection.