

A Pair of George III Gilt-Bronze and Pink Enamel Covered Urns Forming Candlesticks Attributed to Matthew Boulton, the reversible lids with a leaf-cast finial and foliage, the baluster drip-pan ornamented with foliage and with fluted decoration, the ovoid Pink Enamel body ornamented with swags, on a leaf-cast socle and square base with floral garlands, on ball feet.
England, circa 1775.

Height: 8 ½ in. (21 cm)

Matthew Boulton (1728- 1809) and James Fothergill (d.1782) founded their extraordinary factory in Soho, Staffordshire in 1761. They produced an exemplary body of work illustrative of Boulton's innovation as an engineer, entrepreneur and the level of patronage that he received. At the cutting edge of artistic endeavour, he was part of a circle which included luminaries such as Josiah Wedgwood, Robert Adam, Sir William Chambers and James Watt, all of whom who had great bearing on his work.

The present candle-vases are related to a form of candle vase made by the celebrated Matthew Boulton who produced vases, candlesticks and other objects of great beauty and quality at his Soho factory in Birmingham in the second half of 18th century. The design for our vases, by Boulton, is preserved in the Birmingham Reference Library (Pattern Book I, p.170), see illustration. Candle vases of this model were either finished with as in the present or enamel case, with a beautiful pink colour, or with copper bodies decorated in a variety of colours. A pair of vases of the present model with enamel marble bodies is illustrated in Nicolas Goodison, *Ormolu: The Work of Matthew Boulton*, rev.ed.2002, pp.139,291,292. Another pair with gilt-copper bodies is illustrated Goodison, op. cit., p.291, 292 pl. 248.



The vase Design (Pattern Book I, p.170)