Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Rare Portobello Pottery Figural Spill Vase, Circa 1770

£475

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 3207

Height: 13 cm (5.1")

Width: 11 cm (4.3")

Depth: 8 cm (3.1")

Description

A very rare Portobello Pottery figural spill vase, dating to circa 1770 and preserved in near-perfect condition. This exceptional early Scottish ceramic combines the practical purpose of a spill holder with an unusually elaborate figural design, making it an important and highly decorative survivor from the earliest years of Portobello pottery production.

The vase is modelled as a hollow tree trunk, its upper opening intended to hold paper spills-small twists of paper used to carry a flame from the hearth to a candle, lamp, or pipe. At the base sits a finely modelled female figure, draped in warm ochre robes and holding a basket of flowers. The branches rise around and above her, creating a lively pastoral composition with a small bird's nest tucked into the tree.

The rich palette of brown, ochre, green, and soft flesh tones gives the piece considerable warmth and charm. Its hand-modelled form, expressive figure, and glossy coloured glazes demonstrate the imaginative decorative character of early Portobello pottery. Objects of this type would originally have been displayed on a Georgian mantelpiece, where their decorative appeal was combined with the everyday usefulness of storing spills close to the fire.

Early Portobello pottery is rare, and figural spill vases of this quality and condition are particularly difficult to find. The near-perfect state of preservation greatly enhances the importance of this example, allowing its original modelling, colour, and visual impact to be fully appreciated.

A remarkable piece of early Scottish pottery, ideal for collectors of Georgian ceramics, rare Portobello wares, figural pottery, or unusual domestic objects. It would make a captivating addition to a cabinet collection, mantelpiece, or carefully curated period interior.

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com