CAVE DECORATIVE ARTS
FINE FURNITURE & WORKS OF ART

A collection of early 18th century engravings, after Jean Bérain

£2,500



REF: 1070

Cave Decorative Arts
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Height: 51 cm (20.1")

Width: 45 cm (17.7")

Depth: 2.5 cm (1")

Description

A set of six engravings by Gottfried Stein, after designs by Jean Bérain I(1640-1711), published by Jeremias Wolff, Augsburg, between 1712-1724, three of designs for architectural ironwork balustrades and gate posts, two showing designs of whimsical symmetrical decoration known as grotesques, adorned with herms, caryatids, masks, leafy arabesques, garlands and putti amongst strapwork and one showing patterns for the decoration of Boulle marquetry furniture.

Jean Bérain became chief designer to the court of Louis XIV in 1690. His lodgings were in the Louvre near to two influential artisans, his son-in-law, the clockmaker Jacques Thuret, who published his designs in 1711, and the cabinetmaker, André-Charles Boulle. His designs were models for ornamentation and were adopted for decoration of Boulle marquetry and tapestries, as well as faience.

Copies of Bérain's work such as these prints, by highly skilled engravers search as Gottfried Stein, were in demand in Germany to spread the new and fashionable 'Régence' style so highly favoured by the French court and the Parisian aristocracy. In turn, German goldsmiths, cabinetmakers, stuccoists and wall painters took up and adapted them. The Augsburg publisher, Jeremias Wolff (1633-1724), was instrumental in disseminating these designs.

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