

Johan Anton Bünning

Likely active period:

1758-1793

Born/baptised : Unknown

Died : 1793

From Bremen, arrived at the Cape 1758 as a soldier. Member of the Lutheran church. Commissioned by the Dutch Reformed Church to make an inkstand, mounts and bells for two alms bags and a table bell in 1773.

Bünning was active at the Cape during the period when the continental European style was prevalent, and his work exhibits mostly German characteristics.

Pieces recorded by Welz include an inkstand, an inkstand bell, a silver handle on an alms bag and a tea caddy (oblong footed box).

The only piece of flatware I have seen attributed to Bünning is a fiddle pattern konfyf fork, bearing an IB mark that in no way resembles the marks for this maker recorded by Welz. I find it unlikely that Bünning would have produced flatware in this pattern and therefore think it more likely that the fork was made by one of the 19th century silversmiths with the initials JB (of whom there were several).

Most of the known domestic silver by this maker comprises footed boxes. The rectangular boxes with canted corners (sometimes described as octagonal) with hinged stepped covers, moulded thumbpieces and four paw feet, are generally described as tea caddies although I have also seen them called table snuff boxes. The sugar boxes are of bombé form, with embossed scallop decoration on the body and a domed hinged cover, an elaborate floral- and leaf-finial (or a conventional silver-and-wood finial) and four applied pad feet.

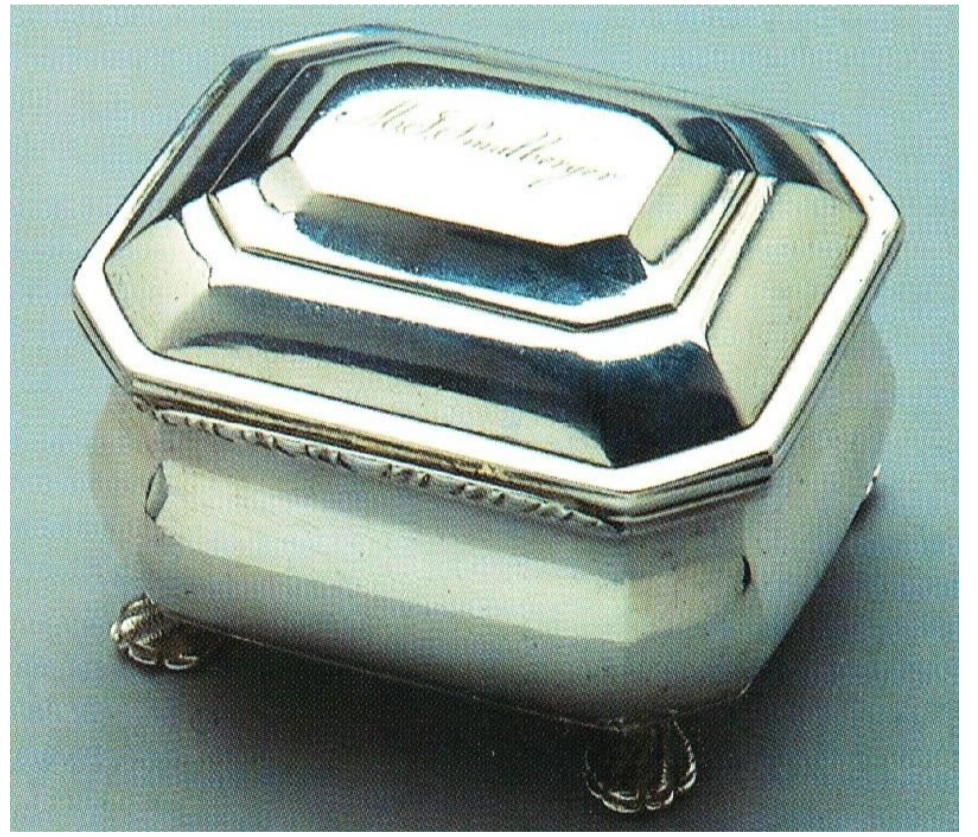
Furniture fittings were also made; I have seen reference to two sets of escutcheon plates including the elaborately decorated pair illustrated below.

Pieces

Furniture fittings



Tea caddies / table snuff boxes



Sugar boxes



(The finial on the above box probably not original)



Marks



Rarity indicator

Flatware	None	Snuff boxes	None	Other items	Available
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Key (relative rarity within each category):

Available	more than 5% of items in our database
Scarce	1 to 5% of items in our database
Rare	fewer than 1% of items in our database
None	No items encountered

Auction price history

Sale date	Item category	Item description	Price realised	Price type *
1993/06/07	Furniture fittings	Stinkwood armoire with silver fittings, the escutcheons by Johan Anton Bunning, the handles later	ZAR99000	2
1996/04/15	Tea caddies	Tea caddy by Johan Bunning, the rectangular bombe body with canted corners, stepped hinged cover with moulded border and scalloped decoration, later engraved 'M.J. Smalberger', on four paw feet, one foot repaired, 190g, 6,5cm wide	ZAR8250	2
2011/03/07	Sugar boxes	Sugar box, Johan Anton Bunning, of bombé form, with rocaïlle repoussé decoration, the domed hinged cover surmounted by a floral finial, on four pad feet, 220g, 8,5cm high	ZAR111400	3
2011/03/07	Tea caddies	Tea caddy, Johan Anton Bunning, octagonal, with a stepped domed cover, on four stylised paw feet, dents, 220g, 6,5cm high	ZAR83550	3
2016/03/14	Furniture fittings	A pair of escutcheon plates, Johan Anton Bunning, each moulded with c-scrolls, flowerheads and shells, 42g, 10,1cm long	ZAR10539	3
2016/10/10	Tea caddies	Tea caddy by Johann Bunning, of octagonal bombé form, the hinged stepped domed cover with moulded thumbpiece, on four paw feet, dents, 185g, 6,2cm high	ZAR54567	3

* Price types:

1 - Auction result hammer price

2 - Auction result including buyer's commission

3 - Auction result including buyer's commission and VAT