

Marthinus Lourens Smith

Likely active period:

1757-1806

Born/baptised : 1722

Died : 18 March 1806

From Aalborg, Denmark. Arrived at the Cape 27 October 1757. Died 18 March 1806.

Curiously, the style of almost all of the pieces I have come across suggests that they were made around the early 19th century. Indeed, the only piece that I consider to exhibit characteristics of late 18th century Cape silver is the vase-form sugar bowl illustrated by Welz.

Table flatware – tablespoons - are in the fiddle pattern, as are konfyf forks (the latter sometimes fiddle-and-shell). The only items of flatware I have come across in a different style are caddy spoons with attractively engraved handles.

All snuff boxes I have encountered are rectangular, decorated with rectangular bands of engraving. The vinaigrette also has engraved decoration and the grille is very simply pierced with a rectangle of holes.

The covered jug illustrated is typical of early 19th century Cape examples of Welz's "Heterogeneous period (1795-1830)". Welz illustrates a vase-form covered sugar bowl, plain with reeded borders, rope twist handles and a pineapple-and-leaf finial, typical of the late 18th and early 19th century Cape bowls. He also illustrates an armoire escutcheon plate, plain with a simple engraved border.

A number of unusual items in silver bear this maker's mark. These include spectacle frames, a purse mount and a pair of silver spurs (mentioned by Welz).

Table flatware

Fiddle pattern tablespoons



Serving flatware

Konfyf Forks

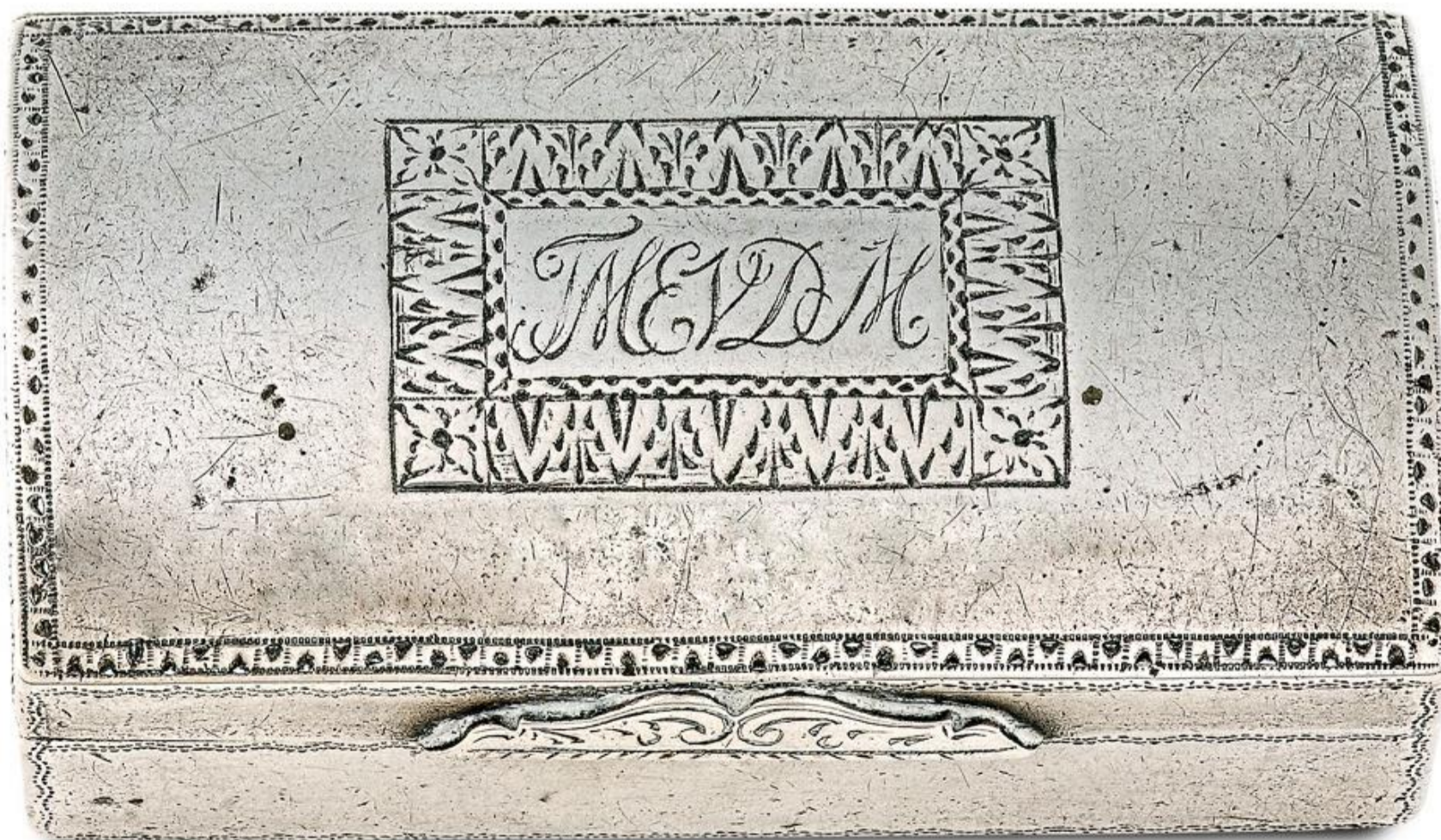
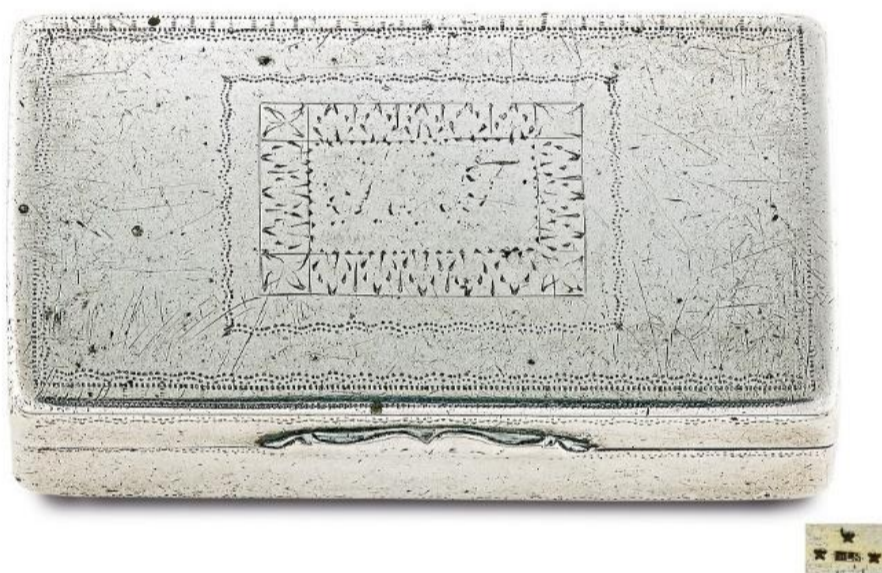


Caddy Spoon

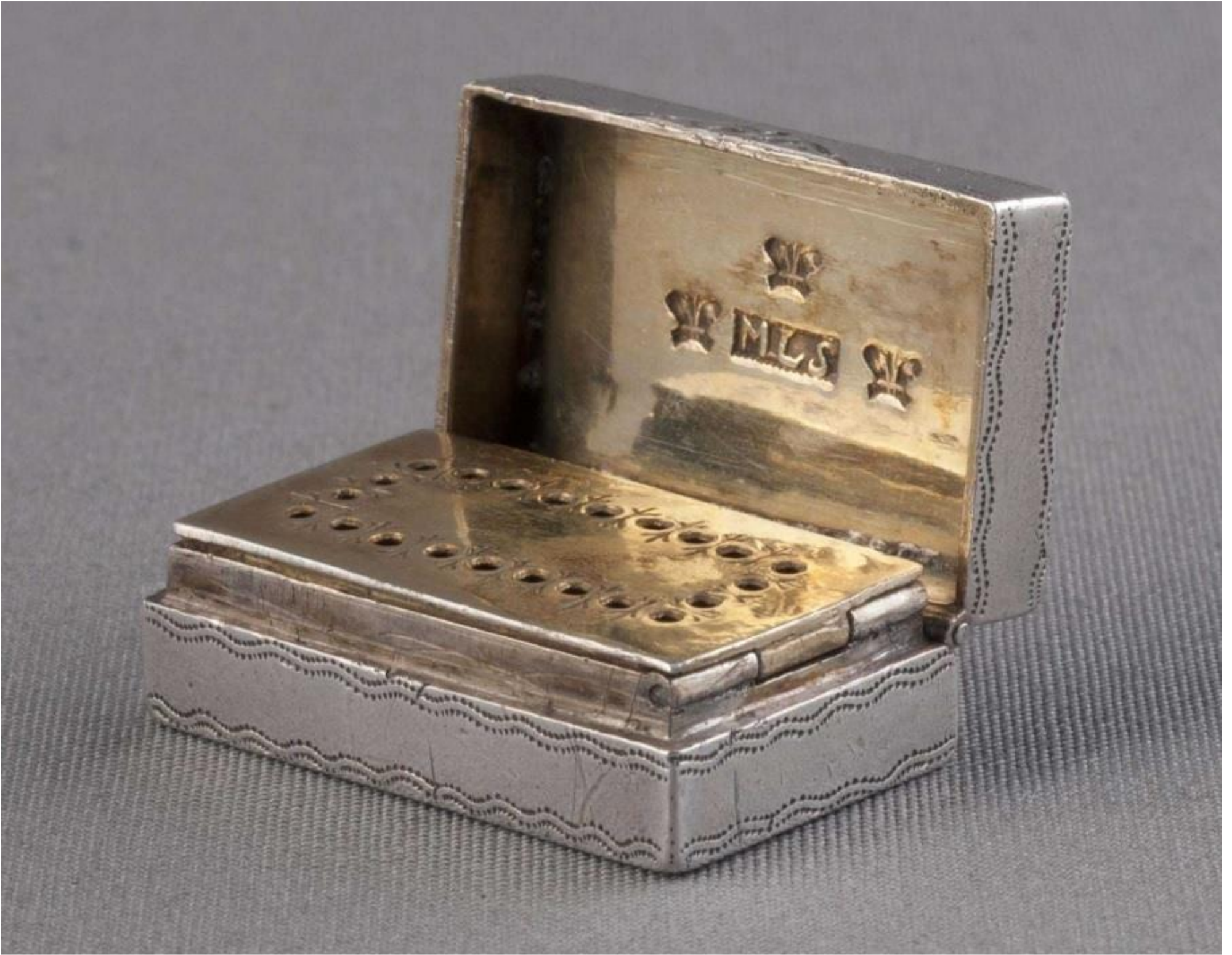


Boxes

Snuff boxes



Vinaigrette



Other pieces

Spectacle frames



Purse Mount



Covered Jug



Marks



Rarity indicator

Flatware	Scarce	Snuff boxes	Available	Other items	Scarce
----------	--------	-------------	-----------	-------------	--------

Note: a set of flatware of the same category and by the same maker is counted as a single item.

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

Note: only sales of single items by public auction, including online auction platforms, are shown here. Unsold lots and job lots have been excluded. This list does not purport to be complete.

Sale date	Item category	Item description	Price realised	Price type *
1998/10/20	Spoons - table	Fiddle pattern tablespoon by Marthinus Lourens Smith, 50g	ZAR437	2
2011/09/26	Vinaigrettes	Vinaigrette, Marthinus Lourens Smith, rectangular, the lid chased with a band of foliage, the sides with wrigglework borders, gilt interior, the pierced grille with foliate decoration, 13g, 2,7cm wide	ZAR17824	3
2012/10/08	Jugs	Covered jug, Martinus Lourens Smith, the shoulder engraved with a band of acorns, flowerheads and scrolls, the hinged cover with gilt bud and foliate finial, with leaf-capped wooden handle, 275g all in, 16,5cm high. PROVENANCE: Johannes Henoeh Marais (1851-1915). Jannie Marias was born on the farm Coetzenberg, now the sports grounds of Stellenbosch University. He made his money by diamond delving operations on the Vaal River and at Kimberley. He and his brothers owned substantial interests in De Beers Consolidated Mines after the consolidation of mining activities in Kimberley. In 1892 he returned to Coetzenburg. He was an active politician and promoter of the Afrikaans language. He was instrumental in the formation of Die Burger. More famously he is known as the main initial benefactor of the Stellenbosch University. "The creation of a university at Stellenbosch was made possible by Mr Jan Marais of Coetzenburg; to the cause of higher education at Stellenbosch, he had magnanimously bequeathed the sum of 100 000." Landmarks of the University include, the JS Marais Square, affectionately call the Red Square and named after Jannie Marais. He was married to Elizabeth Deborah (nee de Villiers), sister of the current owner's Great Grandfather, Senator Wilhelm Bruckner de Villiers. Having no descendants, Jannie and Bessie Marias bequeathed funds to various good causes like the Institute for Deaf & Blind in Worcester and the Children's house in Cape Town. He also left a trust "Het Jan Marais Nationale Fonds" which still supports many organisations with funding. The Elizabeth Marais Bursary is also still in existence at Stellenbosch University.	ZAR200520	3
2016/03/14	Snuff boxes	Snuff box, Marthinus Lourens Smith, rectangular, the domed hinged cover engraved with a plaque enclosing the initials 'JMEVDM', with applied gable-shaped thumbpiece and gilt interior, the base with a vacant wriggle- and stipplework panel, 90g, 6,5cm wide	ZAR10539	3
2016/03/14	Snuff boxes	Snuff box, Marthinus Lourens Smith, rectangular, the hinged cover engraved with a vacant panel enclosed by foliate and wrigglework borders, with shaped thumbpiece and gilt interior, the base with wrigglework and stipple borders, 65g, 5,5cm wide	ZAR10539	3
2016/03/14	Spectacle frames	Spectacle frames, Marthinus Lourens Smith, the retractable arms with oval loop terminals, 20g	ZAR11710	3
2018/03/05	Purse	Chatelaine purse by Marthinus Lourens Smith, the pierced gable-shaped hinged frame engraved with wrigglework, with button-shaped clasp, surmounted by a bolt-and-ring fitting to a hook-shaped handle, 10,3cm wide, 65g	ZAR20463	3
2020/12/07	Snuff boxes	Snuff box, Marthinus Lourens Smith, rectangular, the lid engraved with bands of foliage enclosing initials, 60g, 6,4cm wide	ZAR8000	1

* Price types:

1 - Auction result hammer price

2 - Auction result including buyer's commission

3 - Auction result including buyer's commission and VAT