

RALPH GIERHARDS

ANTIQUES / FINE ART



Blue John Cassolette

21 cm

8.26771653543307

18th Century Epoche George III
Gilded Bronze Blue John
21 x 0 cm (8¹/₄ x 0 inches)

Blue John, gilt bronze

The leaf-stretched, urn-shaped body features a Greek key frieze, a reversible leaf-shaped finial, and a candle socket, flanked by scrolled handles, a fluted base, and a square pedestal with Greek key feet.

Until the early 19th century, vessels (vases, bowls, etc.) were made in England from a yellow-blue to white-blue banded massive fluorite mined in Derbyshire, which earned the nickname "Blue John" – from the French "bleu-jaune" for blue-yellow.

Literature:

The design of this urn can be found in Matthew Boulton's and James Fothergill's Pattern Book I, p. 170.
N. Goodison, *Ormolu, The Work of Matthew Boulton*, London, 1974, p. 163