



**A 17th century Arita ware blue and white porcelain ewer with 19th century Ottoman silver and gem set mounts.  
£3,250.00**

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During the 17th century the vogue for Chinese blue and white porcelain reached a peak with vast quantities being traded in Europe and the Ottoman Empire. However, the final years of the Ming dynasty and the political and economic unrest which resulted lead to traders sourcing new wares that could augment the depleted trade from China.

One of the major sources from the mid-17th century was Japan where the establishment of porcelain kilns near the city of Arita created a new source of supply. Arita ware adapted both Chinese and western decoration and shapes, the most sought after being the underglaze blue and white although coloured wares were also produced.

Blue and white porcelain was particularly collected in the Ottoman Empire, initially large quantities of Chinese export ware was available through the silk road and had an immense influence on Iznikware. With the trade diminishing during the end of the Ming period, other wares became available from European traders.

By the time this ewer had been augmented with silver mounts, it was already an antique and probably a precious possession. There is a long history of augmenting porcelain with silver and gems within the Ottoman period with examples dating back to the 16th century.

The silver mounts used on this ewer are decorated in a traditional style. The engraved floral motifs below the lid are reminiscent of Iznik pottery decoration with stylised tulips within curvilinear leaf borders.

The lid is domed with pierced decoration of stylised flower heads with silver balls and rope like detailing and punctuated with silver rectangles faceted in imitation of gemstones. The spout is set with a cabochon chalcedony in a simple rub over setting and the top of the lid is similarly set with a cabochon carnelian. The overall effect is one of luxury and very much to Ottoman taste of the time, enhancing an already precious and antique object.

Measurements:

Width: 13.5cm, Height: 23.5cm

Weight: 833 grams

<b>Material and Technique</b>	Silver and porcelain
<b>Origin</b>	Chinese
<b>Period</b>	1970s
<b>Condition</b>	Excellent
<b>Dimensions</b>	Width: 13.5cm, Height: 23.5cm Weight: 833 grams

Antique ref: JC-A17-07241