



Johann Joachim Kaendler
The Bawdy Monk
Meissen, circa 1765

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Court parfumeurs, such as Jean-Louis Fargeon who held the position of personal perfume provider to Queen Marie-Antoinette, would decant perfumes into small ceramic bottles which were owned by wealthy clients. These were objets d'art of great value, were made by the leading ceramics factories and often with risqué themes. This double-compartment perfume bottle was first modelled by Johann Kaendler at the Royal Porcelain Works at Meissen in 1750.

In a tilt at the supposedly chaste state of mediaeval monastic life, this European folk tale depicts the monk returning from market with more than the abbey's requirements. He carries on his person a basket of fresh eggs, a goose for the cooking pot and a girl (smuggled none-too-secretively in a sheaf of wheat)! Her eyes peep out from among the waving stalks of wheat, while her feet protrude inelegantly from the bottom of the sheaf.

8.5cm tall