

PAN

AMSTERDAM

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SET OF FOUR DUTCH SILVER CANDLESTICKS, Diederik Lodewijk Bennewitz, Amsterdam, 1807

2577 grams in total; height 28.7 cm.

Literature indicates that Bennewitz made this type of candlesticks in the same structure, but with varying details, both for table candlesticks and candelabras. The distinctive candlesticks with triangular base with hollow steps and rosettes are almost exclusively found in the early 19th century and were made by Bennewitz. The earliest known pair of candlesticks of this type dates back to 1803. Bennewitz likely designed and produced this type around this time until the 1820s. These candlesticks were made and sold by Bennewitz & Bonebakker in Amsterdam between 1802 and 1821.

This set of four candlesticks has additional decoration of garlands on the vase-shaped candle holders and on the shoulders of the stem. These garlands do not appear on the other known candlesticks. This indicates that Bennewitz consistently executed the distinctive shape but varied the details, possibly on the client's request, by using pearl borders or angular divisions of the stems.

The firm meticulously recorded in the workman's books each year when silversmiths were commissioned. It is highly likely that these candlesticks are recorded in Bonebakker's workman's book in 1807-1808. In the book, on March 25, 1808, Bonebakker notes that Bennewitz delivered four candlesticks with triangular bases. The name Willink is mentioned alongside the delivery. The weight is also listed as 10 mark - 6 loot - 5 engels. Converted into grams, this is 2561.13 grams. The four candlesticks weigh 2577 grams in total, which closely matches the weight mentioned in the workman's book.