Primary Maker: Everardus Bogardus
Title: Girdle buckle
Date: ca. 1703
Medium: Gold
Dimensions: Overall: 1/4 × 1 3/8 × 1 1/8 in., 10.3 dwt (0.6 × 3.5 × 2.9 cm, 16 g)
Credit Line: Gift of Robert G. Goelet
Object Number: 1965.14

Object Name: Girdle buckle
Classification: SILVER

Curatorial Remarks:
This gold buckle belonged to Sarah Bayard (1683-1739). It may have been presented to her around the time of her marriage in 1703. She would have used the buckle to secure a girdle with a narrow ribbon belt worn around her waist. The circumstances under which Sarah received this elegant gold girdle buckle remain unclear. Scholars have posited that Sarah used her mother's bequest of "£12 in money to make her a silver tankard when she is of age or married" to purchase this gold buckle instead of the silver tankard. However, the use of Sarah's maiden name on the buckle points to a date around or prior to her marriage in 1703. A more likely scenario is that Sarah's future husband or another family member presented her the buckle as an engagement or wedding gift.

Physical Description:
Gold belt buckle with a u-shaped frame; inner crossbar with two prongs and a fish-tail plaque with engraved foliage

Related Objects: