



MacDonald's Patent Campaign Shoe Rack

James Platt & Co.

Sold



REF: 31558

Height: 20.5 cm (8.1")

Width: 62.5 cm (24.6")

Depth: 3 cm (1.2")

Description

MacDonald's Patent Campaign Boot & Shoe Rack.

A rare and highly desirable example of late 19th early 20th century campaign furniture, this hanging Boot & Shoe Rack is the ingenious MacDonald's Patent design and could have been produced by James Platt & Co. of 77 St. Martin's Lane, London.

The patent shoe racks were developed in the late 19th century as portable, folding equipment for military officers, sportsmen, and travellers. Examples were typically made in polished oak, walnut, or mahogany and fitted with a serrated brass strip and hinges. This example is made of oak.

The design allows boots and shoes to hang vertically by the underside of the heel, which is gripped securely by the serrated brass edge and held in place by the weight of the footwear itself. This system saves valuable floor space, encourages air circulation for drying, and when used in the colonies, raises footwear off the ground to help prevent spiders, snakes, and other unwelcome creatures from hiding inside. The rack is hinged at the centre so that it folds neatly in half for travel or storage. When folded, the lower section protects the serrated brass strip from damage, or injury from the user, this also ensures safe and efficient storage. When hung, the brass teeth run along the length of the rack and point upwards, providing a simple yet highly effective method of storage for shoes.

The top stretcher is with a brass oval plaque which is embossed "MacDonald's Patent". The majority of these racks were made by Platt's under licence, and examples are increasingly rare today. A similar rack, though without reference to the patent, is illustrated in the 1907 Army & Navy Catalogue, where it was offered in 2ft and 3ft lengths.

An exceptional and increasingly hard-to-find piece of authentic campaign furniture, equally at home in a modern interior as a functional and decorative storage solution. Please note, only footwear with a heel can be hung on the rack.

Dimensions:

Measurements given are when the rack is hanging. Closed: 62½ cm x 11 cm x 3 cm.

The shoes shown are not for sale. There is also an image of three shoe racks closed and stacked together. The price is for just one, the small oak rack.