Schotten

Leather Bottle Case For Wine Or Whisky

Sold

Manfred Schotten Antiques
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REF: 31699

Height: 35 cm (13.8")

Width: 31 cm (12.2")

Depth: 12 cm (4.7")

Description

Antique Leather Three-Bottle Tantalus / Portable Cellarette.
A distinctive and unusual antique tantalus, designed in the spirit of a portable campaign cellarette, combining refined craftsmanship with practical functionality. Built on a solid wooden carcass and fully clad in rich tan leather, this piece offers both durability and timeless character. The case is with a dome top, exterior features two brass carry handles on the sides, making it ideal for transport, while the interior features three individual partitions to securely house bottles or decanters. Both practical and decorative, it is ideal for travel, picnics, or as a striking addition to a barware collection.

Rooted in the tradition of the cellarette, literally meaning "little cellar", this piece reflects the purpose of early portable wine and spirit storage. Cellarettes, particularly those crafted in mahogany during the early Victorian period, were designed to store and protect bottles, often featuring fitted interiors, brass handles, and locking mechanisms. Many included multiple dividers for glass bottles or decanters and were prized for both their utility and fine craftsmanship, often finished with details such as boxwood stringing and raised on small feet.

Similarly, the tantalus was created as a lockable cabinet intended to display fine spirits while restricting access. Named after the figure from Greek mythology-forever tempted but unable to drink-it ensured that contents remained visible yet secure, historically preventing unauthorised access while maintaining an air of refinement.
This example beautifully bridges both traditions: a portable, lockable spirit case with the character of a classic cellarette and the purpose of a traditional tantalus. A charming and well-crafted antique, perfect for collectors, interior display, or practical use.

The wine bottles are for display only and are not included in the price.

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