Antique Silver Fox Hunting Vesta Case

Sampson Mordan & Co.

£1,850

Manfred Schotten Antiques
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REF: 31655

Height: 5.8 cm (2.3")

Width: 3.2 cm (1.3")

Depth: 0.9 cm (0.4")

Description

Antique Fox Hunting Vesta Case by Sampson Mordan.
An exquisite antique silver enamelled fox hunting vesta case by the renowned maker Sampson Mordan, hallmarked London 1892 with the registered mark 'S. M. & Co.' (registered in 1890). This charming piece features a flip-top lid with chain ring and a serrated base designed for striking matches, combining practicality with refined Victorian craftsmanship. The front is beautifully decorated with an enamelled fox hunting scene, depicting three mounted huntsmen surrounded by the hounds, capturing the spirit of late 19th century fox hunting. The reverse is engraved with a lion and "Harold from Dora. May 4th 1894".

A vesta case, also known as a match safe, is a small pocket-sized container designed to safely hold friction matches. Named after Vesta, the Roman goddess of the hearth, these cases were essential during the Victorian era when early matches were prone to accidental ignition. Often crafted from silver, gold, or brass, vesta cases typically featured a ribbed or serrated base for striking matches and were commonly worn on watch chains as both practical accessories and fashionable statements.

A superb example of Victorian silver novelty craftsmanship with fine enamelling.

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