

Victorian visiting card case

£35



REF: 7380

Height: 11 cm (4.3")

Width: 8 cm (3.1")

Depth: 1.75 cm (0.7")

Description

A Victorian ornately carved wood and micro-mosaic visiting card case, circa 1850.

Victorian visiting card cases were elegant accessories reflecting social etiquette and personal taste. Used to carry calling cards, they accompanied formal visits governed by strict rules. Crafted from silver, gilt brass, tortoiseshell, leather, wood, or ivory, cases were often richly decorated with engraving, repoussé, enamel, or monograms.

Some featured romantic motifs, floral designs, or classical scenes. A visiting card presented from such a case signalled respectability and refinement. Compact yet expressive, these objects reveal how material culture supported networking, courtship, and status display in nineteenth-century society. They also illustrate industrial craftsmanship, gendered rituals, and the intimacy of everyday Victorian exchange culture.