Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Regency pinchbeck ornate cast brooch

£45

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REF: 6846

Description

A Regency pinchbeck ornate cast brooch with four turquoise stones, circa 1820.

Pinchbeck is a type of alloy invented in the early 18th century by Christopher Pinchbeck, an English watchmaker. Composed primarily of copper and zinc, it closely resembles gold in appearance, making it a popular substitute in inexpensive jewellery and decorative objects. Pinchbeck was especially valued during a time when gold was heavily taxed and restricted to the upper class.

Unlike gold-plated items, Pinchbeck does not easily tarnish and retains its bright, golden lustre. Its popularity declined in the 19th century with the rise of cheaper electroplating techniques, but it remains a historically significant example of early imitation gold alloys.

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