Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Scottish Horn and Agate Snuff Mull, Inscribed 1850

£385

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REF: 1227

Height: 8 cm (3.1")

Description

An evocative antique Scottish horn snuff mull, its rich natural horn body mounted with white metal and fitted with a hinged cover inset with a striking banded agate panel. The engraved mount is inscribed: "John Woodrow Newton Linavady 1850", giving this handsome object a personal and highly distinctive provenance.

Snuff mulls were an important part of Scottish social life during the 18th and 19th centuries. Made to hold finely ground tobacco, they were passed among friends, family, and guests as gestures of hospitality and companionship. Horn was a particularly favoured material: durable, tactile, and naturally varied in colour, it gave each mull an individual character that developed further through use and handling.

This example combines the warm, organic surface of the horn with the cool gleam of the white-metal mounts and the polished colour of the agate. The hinged top opens to reveal the snuff compartment, while the agate inset provides a refined decorative accent. Its personal inscription transforms the mull from a traditional social object into a named memento, preserving a direct connection to its 19th-century owner.

With its robust construction, attractive materials, and engraved 1850 date, this is a particularly appealing piece of Scottish domestic and social history. It would make a distinguished addition to a collection of Scottish folk art, antique tobacciana, hornwork, or personally inscribed 19th-century objects.

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