Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

J. Mason Crocodile-Skin Vanity Case, Circa 1890

£475

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REF: 5794

Description

A superb late 19th-century tan crocodile-skin vanity case by J. Mason, Trunk Makers, dating to circa 1890. This handsome and highly practical travelling case reflects the refinement of the Victorian and Belle Époque era, when personal luggage was made not merely for utility, but as an expression of taste, status, and craftsmanship.

The case is covered in richly textured tan crocodile skin, its warm colour and naturally patterned surface giving it an unmistakably luxurious character. Its compact, structured form was designed for travel, protecting a carefully arranged fitted interior containing a selection of silver-mounted vanity items. Such sets would have accompanied their owner on journeys, providing the essentials for grooming and dressing in the comfort of a private room or railway compartment.

The interior arrangement is especially evocative of the period, combining the order and practicality expected of a high-quality travelling case with the elegance of silver personal accessories. Each component was intended to have its own place, creating a self-contained portable dressing table for the discerning traveller.

J. Mason, Trunk Makers, was known for producing well-made luggage and travelling equipment, and this vanity case is a fine example of the firm's attention to material, function, and finish. The combination of luxurious crocodile skin, fitted interior, and silver vanity fittings makes it a particularly desirable object for collectors of antique luggage, Victorian accessories, and finely made travel goods.

A beautifully preserved and wonderfully atmospheric piece, equally compelling as a collector's object or as a decorative addition to a dressing room, library, or interior with a strong sense of period style.

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