Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Large S. L. Allen Flexible Flyer Sledge, Circa 1900

£225

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REF: 2751

Description

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow… This stunning large American Flexible Flyer sledge by S. L. Allen & Co., dating to circa 1900, captures all the exhilaration and nostalgia of a proper winter's day.

With its long wooden slats, robust steel runners, and distinctive steerable construction, the Flexible Flyer was one of the great American sledges of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Unlike a traditional toboggan, its ingenious design allowed the rider to steer by shifting their weight and using the front runner assembly, making it faster, more responsive, and perfectly suited to racing down snow-covered hills.

The generous scale of this example gives it real presence. Its warm, time-softened timber contrasts beautifully with the dark metalwork, while the naturally worn surfaces speak to years of outdoor use and family winter adventures. Whether imagined speeding down a hillside or displayed as a decorative object, it has the irresistible charm of an era when snowy weather meant a day of adventure.

Founded by Samuel Leeds Allen, the Flexible Flyer became an American icon, celebrated for its quality, durability, and thrilling performance. Early examples such as this are increasingly sought after by collectors of sporting memorabilia, Americana, and traditional winter antiques.

Today, this handsome sledge would make a striking addition to a country house, ski lodge, chalet, shop display, or festive interior. It would look particularly wonderful hung on a wall, displayed beside a fireplace, or styled with winter greenery during the Christmas season.

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