Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

George III 15ct Gold, Hair, Enamel and Pearl Mourning Brooch

£495

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 5219

Description

A fine George III mourning brooch in 15ct yellow gold, hairwork, enamel, and pearls, later inscribed in remembrance of Master Edward Bowerbank in 1839. The jewel's elegant Georgian construction and restrained design contrast poignantly with its later Victorian memorial inscription, creating an object with a layered and deeply personal history.

The brooch is centred with a carefully arranged hairwork compartment, a tangible memento traditionally worn close to the heart. Black enamel provides the conventional language of mourning, while the surrounding pearls add a gentle, luminous accent. In memorial jewellery, pearls were closely associated with tears, innocence, and remembrance, making their presence especially affecting in a dedication to a young person.

Originally made during the George III period, the brooch was later adapted as a memorial jewel in 1839. This continuation of use reflects the enduring importance of precious family jewellery: an existing object of value could be transformed into a personal keepsake, preserving both the material legacy of one generation and the memory of another.

A particularly evocative piece of English mourning jewellery, combining Georgian craftsmanship with a later, named Victorian commemoration. It would make a distinguished addition to a collection of antique sentimental jewellery, hairwork, or historically inscribed personal objects.

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