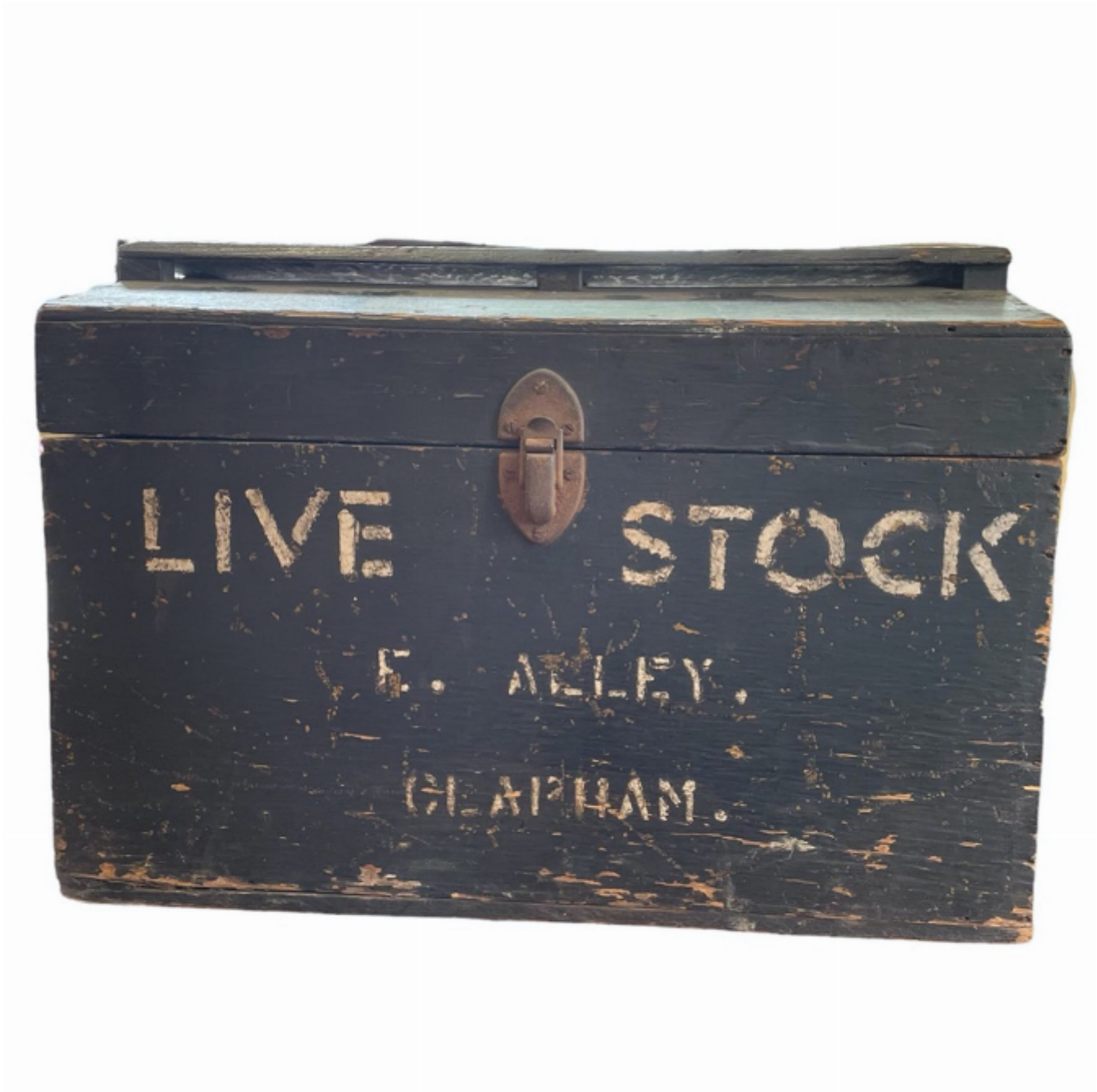
Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Vintage Racing Pigeon Transporter, Circa 1940

£85



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REF: 3074

Height: 32 cm (12.6")

Width: 45 cm (17.7")

Depth: 28 cm (11")

Description

How do you transport antique pigeons? In a circa 1940 racing pigeon transporter, of course.

A wonderfully unusual and evocative piece of sporting and rural history, this vintage pigeon transporter was made for the safe carriage of racing pigeons to the point from which they would be released for their journey home. Practical, robust, and full of character, it recalls a time when pigeon racing was a hugely popular pastime, bringing together careful breeding, patient training, competition, and community.

The transporter is designed with the welfare and secure handling of the birds in mind, offering a purpose-built enclosure for travel before a race. Its utilitarian construction and timeworn appearance speak to years of genuine use, while its unusual form makes it a fascinating object even for those with no connection to the sport. It has the appealing honesty of an object made to do one job well.

Pigeon racing has a long and richly documented history in Britain and across Europe, with birds released from considerable distances and timed on their return to the home loft. Equipment such as this played an essential role in the ritual of race day, carrying valuable and carefully conditioned birds before their release.

One hinge is broken; however, the transporter remains functional. This small fault forms part of the object's authentic working history and does not diminish its distinctive decorative appeal.

A superb conversation piece for a country house, garden room, loft, studio, pub interior, or collection of sporting and agricultural antiques. It would also make an exceptional display object for anyone interested in pigeon racing, rural life, unusual transport equipment, or mid-20th-century utilitarian design.

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