Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Herbert & Sons Cast Iron Weighing Scales, Circa 1900

£495

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 6891

Height: 80 cm (31.5")

Width: 60 cm (23.6")

Depth: 36 cm (14.2")

Description

A superb set of Herbert & Sons cast iron weighing scales, made in Smithfield, London, circa 1900, and retaining their original ironstone pottery weighing plate. Practical in origin yet wonderfully sculptural in form, these handsome shop scales offer an evocative reminder of the craftsmanship and visual character of the Edwardian-era butcher's shop, grocer, or kitchen.

The robust cast iron frame has a strong industrial presence, with its carefully engineered balance mechanism and substantial proportions reflecting the quality associated with Herbert & Sons of Smithfield. The original ironstone plate adds a particularly appealing contrast to the dark metal base: its pale glazed surface brings a note of refinement to the utilitarian design, while its survival greatly enhances the authenticity and decorative value of the piece.

Once used for accurately weighing produce, meat, dry goods, or other provisions, the scales now make an exceptional decorative object. They would sit beautifully in a kitchen, pantry, shop interior, restaurant, bar, or country house setting, and are equally appealing to collectors of advertising, culinary antiques, industrial design, and British shop fittings.

With their timeworn surfaces, original components, and confident Victorian-to-Edwardian industrial design, these scales have the sort of presence that is difficult to reproduce. A characterful and increasingly sought-after piece of English retail history.

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