Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Miniature Victorian Wooden Fahrenheit Thermometer, Circa 1880

£75

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 7810

Height: 10 cm (3.9")

Width: 3 cm (1.2")

Description

A charming miniature Victorian wall thermometer, set within a shaped wooden case and measuring just 10cm by 3cm. Despite its small scale, it has considerable presence, combining a practical scientific instrument with the warm patina and understated elegance of late 19th-century domestic design.

The arched thermometer plate is finely inscribed with a Fahrenheit scale, ranging from 20 to 120 degrees, and retains its glass tube and red-coloured spirit column. Alongside the numbered scale are the evocative period temperature references "Freezing," "Temperate," "Summer Heat," and "Blood Heat," offering a delightful insight into the way temperature was described and understood in the Victorian home.

The small wooden mount has a gently curved profile, a raised moulded rim, and a simple hanging loop, allowing it to be displayed easily on a wall. Its naturally aged surface and time-softened finish add warmth and character, while the compact proportions make it particularly appealing as a miniature object.

Before central heating and modern weather instruments, a thermometer such as this provided a useful daily guide to household conditions. Today, it makes an engaging addition to a study, library, kitchen, doll's house display, or collection of antique scientific instruments and treen.

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