Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

18th-Century Turned Bone Tambour Hook Case and Threader

£35

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REF: 5387

Description

A rare and finely made late 18th-century turned bone tambour hook case and threader, dating to circa 1780. Beautifully crafted as a compact needlework accessory, this delicate object is a wonderful survival from the elegant and increasingly sophisticated world of Georgian domestic sewing.

Turned from bone with a smooth, warm patina, the case was designed to protect and carry a fine hook used for tambour work-the fashionable chain-stitch embroidery technique that preceded and informed later crochet. Tambouring was worked with fabric stretched tightly over a circular frame, from which the name derives, and required specialist tools of great delicacy. The accompanying threader would have assisted with the preparation of fine thread for use with the hook.

During the late 18th century, tambour embroidery became an important accomplishment for fashionable women in Britain and France. Its light, flowing chain stitch was especially suited to muslin, net, and other fine fabrics, and it was used to embellish clothing, accessories, and domestic textiles. Objects such as this were both practical working tools and small expressions of personal taste, made with care from attractive materials and intended to be kept within a sewing table, workbox, or pocket necessaire.

The elegant turning, compact form, and remarkable survival of the threader make this an especially evocative example. It offers a tangible connection to the skill, patience, and decorative arts of the Georgian needleworker, while its simple sculptural form gives it great appeal as an object in its own right.

A charming addition to a collection of antique sewing tools, Georgian domestic objects, or textile history. Turned bone; English or French, circa 1780. Please refer to photographs for condition, dimensions, and completeness.

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