Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Victorian Silver and Mother-of-Pearl Child's Rattle, Birmingham 1880

£245

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REF: 2392

Description

A charming Victorian silver and mother-of-pearl child's rattle and teething ring by Crisford & Norris, hallmarked in Birmingham in 1880. Beautifully made and richly evocative of 19th-century nursery life, this precious object combines the practical purpose of a teether with the refinement expected of a presentation piece for a much-loved child.

The rattle is fashioned in silver, with a smooth mother-of-pearl ring designed to be held and used as a teether. The luminous natural shell contrasts beautifully with the bright silver, creating a delicate and elegant object that would have been treasured both for its usefulness and as a symbol of family affection. In the Victorian era, silver rattles were often given to mark a birth, christening, or early childhood milestone, and were intended to be retained as keepsakes long after their practical use had passed.

Crisford & Norris were respected Birmingham silversmiths, and the clear hallmarks date this piece precisely to 1880. The combination of a named maker, attractive materials, and a fully legible date letter adds considerable collector interest, while its compact scale and beautifully balanced form make it an especially appealing example of Victorian nursery silver.

Today, this delightful rattle would make a thoughtful christening gift, a beautiful addition to a collection of antique baby and nursery objects, or an engaging piece of Victorian silver for display. It carries a tangible connection to the rituals of childhood and family life in the late 19th century.

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