

SA1230503

A Collection Of Antique Bone Prisoner of War Teetotums

Price

GBP 195

| USD \$266 | EUR 228

Item Reference: SA1230503

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Description

This is a small collection of four antique bone teetotums. The box also contains four small some bone dice. Many antique teetotums (spinning dice/tops) were made by prisoners of war, particularly French prisoners held in Britain during the Napoleonic Wars (1703–1815). Captives carved these detailed multi-sided gaming pieces out of leftover beef or ox bone to pass the time and sell to guards or locals for money. One of the teetotums is a Put and Take example- see below for the game One is an 8 sided teetotal stained red. There are two slightly different teetotums with dots instead of numbers, these would have been used as dice, spinning rather than shaking the dice. A teetotum was a many faceted spinning top usually 4,6,8 or 12 sides marked with distinctive numbers or letters, many were made by Prisoners of War. They were used for playing games, mostly of the gambling variety and serves in place of dice. A common gambling game played was called Put and Take. This was played with the examples which had the letters on P, T, H and N. The players either had to put money in the pot or take it out. One of the Teetotums is for playing Put and Take game. Every player starts wi...

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