

SA191250

Rare Antique English Figural Desk Top Compendium by Asprey, London c.1910

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA191250****Date of manufacture: 1910**

Description

An absolute gem, retailed by the creme de la creme of luxury emporiums, "Asprey 166 New Bond Street & 22 Albermarle Street". This shape of letter box dates to around 1860, a clear Victorian box which is when this compendium would have first been designed. It was retailed by the two most exclusive retailer's Asprey and Thornhill, this one by Asprey as previously mentioned. The design was carried through .. this particular one made around 1910 to celebrate George V coming to the throne. Made from a combination of brass and bronze, the box is extremely heavy and of course the finest of quality. The labels are made from white and black enamel. The first little secret is that the top (with enamelled compass) opens to reveal a gilded postage stamp box, in front of this is a little enamelled label "Letters", emulating the slot where letters would be posted. The entire top then opens to reveal a candle holder, this is sprung just like a student's lamp, the candle would push right down inside the pillar box once the lid was closed. Again all gilded, this is where the retailer's signature can be found. The candle would have been used to melt sealing wax to seal letters. The wa...

Internal Ref: 34511

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