

**SA623947**

## Edwardian Cased Pocket Damp Protector or Hygrometer by Aitchison & Co of London & Leeds

Price

**Sold****Item Reference: SA623947****Date of manufacture: 1900**

### Dimensions

Height = 6 cm (2.4")

Width = 5 cm (2.0")

Depth = 2 cm (0.8")

## Description

For sale, an Edwardian cased pocket damp detector or pocket hygrometer retailed by Aitchison & Co of London & Leeds. The one and a half inch ceramic dial has an indication scale ranging through very dry to very damp and states, "Aitchison & Co Opticians to HM Govt, London & Leeds" which is written to the base. Unusually, the hygrometer remains with its original case and like the instrument itself, remains in near perfect condition and would have been retailed by Aitchison in London or in its regional Leeds branch. The naming of the Leeds branch is useful for dating purposes as this branch did not open until 1905. These instruments gained popularity during the latter part of the nineteenth century where they were devised for measuring how damp cloth and linens were when they were returned from laundries used by the wealthy due to the lack of home facilities. The fear of cold and flu was a tangible concern at the time and these 'pocket damp detectors' were recommended for use in an 1889 publication named, "Suggestions to mothers on the management of their children" to ensure that healthy standards were met. Due to their portability, they are also considered to have been ...

## Seller Details

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