

SA783742

Early Victorian Box of Congreve Matches by Bell & Black London

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA783742****Date of manufacture: 1850**

Dimensions

Height = 5.5 cm (2.2")

Width = 4 cm (1.6")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

Description

For sale, an early Victorian box of Congreve matches by Bell & Black of Cheapside London. An extremely rare and complete early example of a friction match tin containing all of its original contents. The case is comprised of a pressed tin body with hinged lid and strikers to the base and to the front of lid. The decoration on the case states the maker's name, Bell & Black, 15 Bow Lane, Cheapside, London" to either side with the back describing the contents as, "New patent gas camphorated Congreve lights without sulphur". They are considered to have patented both the metal matchbox and the new processes for match manufacture. Sulphur was a common ingredient for matches up until this point and had the obvious downside of emitting a foul smell. This improvement was one that the company were explicit about in their entry description for The Great Exhibition of 1851. The Exhibition catalogue for Class 29 (miscellaneous manufactures & small wares) states: "Bell & Black - 15 Bow Lane - Manufacturers Imitation vestas and congreves, without any combustible material Machine with knife inserted for cutting matches in half Manufactured wax vesta matches Camphorated round wood ...

Seller Details

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