

SA837993

French Edwardian Luminus Potassium Bichromate Table Lighter

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA837993****Date of manufacture: 1900**

Dimensions

Height = 21 cm (8.3")

Width = 10 cm (3.9")

Depth = 9 cm (3.5")

Description

For sale, a French Edwardian Period Luminus Potassium Bichromate Table Lighter. Comprised of a club shaped blue glass base cleverly manufactured to incorporate a glass screw thread at the top of the neck. Onto the glass thread is screwed the mechanism which is composed of a long plunger with a spring to ensure that it remains extended and an L shaped aperture. On the underside of the lid of the mechanism is extended two carbon rods and a smaller flat rod of zinc which is manoeuvred up and down with the plunger. The combination of the carbon and zinc coupled with a mix of weak sulphuric acid and potassium bichromate effectively creates a Grenet wet cell battery converting chemical energy into electrical energy. The reaction would be enabled by plunging the zinc rod into the solution and allowing a charge to flow through the mechanism and up through the L shaped aperture. The plunger action also raises a hinged lid on the lid of the secondary blue glass attachment revealing a platinum sponge and small pilot wick head beside it. The blue glass bottle would have contained petrol and fed both the small and large wick heads and with the release of the current against the pl...

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