

SA966529

Unusual Watkins & Doncaster Entomology Museum Specimen Cabinet

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA966529****Date of manufacture: 1880**

Dimensions

Height = 90.5 cm (35.6")

Width = 52.5 cm (20.7")

Depth = 48 cm (18.9")

Description

Circa 1880. A high-quality case in solid Mahogany (including the rear of the case) the draw fronts in contrasting fiddle back mahogany. Each draw with a tight-fitting glass lid and numbered 1 -14, additionally all the drawers have a sliding wooden 'lock' (museum specification) accessed via a locked wooden door at the back (complete with separate key), these enable only the selected draws to be opened. Additionally, there is the front locking system to all of the draws (complete with separate key). An ivory plaque to the front reads "MOTHS" plus the firms ivory trade label is attached to the left hand side of the case. Provenance: The British Natural History Museum. Extract from Watkins & Doncaster' the Firm: Founded in 1874 by William Watkins in Eastbourne. His house was named 'The Villa Sphinx' after the Hawkmoth and gained the nickname 'The Villa Stinks' as a result of the all-pervading smell of moth balls. He established a butterfly farm in his grounds, three-quarters of an acre being devoted to rearing Lepidoptera collected from all over the world. In 1879 Watkins moved the business to 36 The Strand, London and formed a partnership with Arthur Doncaster which...

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