

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

18th century gold & shagreen sewing etui

Maker Not Recorded

Sold



REF: 7921

Height: 97 mm (3.82")

Width: 39 mm (1.54")

Depth: 16 mm (0.63")

Description

Rare and wonderful George III sewing etui, or nécessaire, decorated with green shagreen panels bounded with 18ct gold banding and decorated with beautiful and delicate flowerhead beading. The push-button lid opens to reveal the complete and original accessories, each fitting into its designated place.

- Tortoiseshell penknife with silver blade, inlaid with gold decoration
- Gold bodkin
- Gold earwax remover (the wax was used to stiffen the cotton to aid threading)
- Gold pick & pencil
- Ivory note card
- Steel scissors with gold handles.

Shagreen is a type of rawhide consisting of rough untanned skin, historically from a horse's or onager's (wild ass) back, or from shark or ray.

An etui was a small case to contain implements for writing, manicure or sewing, and so-named after the French word *estui* meaning to keep. In the 1700s these small objects were an essential element of one's fashionable costume and even gentlewomen would make a statement about their wealth and status by wearing silver and gold etuis, sometimes decorated with precious stones.

This little work of art is in superb and original condition.