

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Aesthetic mixed metal silver & gilt card case

Deakin & Nephew

£1,650



REF: 7996

Height: 92 mm (3.62")

Width: 65 mm (2.56")

Depth: 7 mm (0.28")

Weight: 98 g

Description

This pretty Victorian antique silver card case is beautifully engraved in the Aesthetic style with bamboo, cherry blossoms and birds; popular design cues in the oriental style. It has the unusual feature of an applied yellow gold flying bird and a rose gold ring surrounding a gilded heron.

This type of mixed metal work, combining silver with gold and sometimes copper, was more typically produced by American silversmiths and it is rare to find English examples like this.

"Art for art's sake", was a phrase coined by Theophile Gautier in 1835, and became the slogan for the Aesthetic Movement - a movement that set forth to promote the cult of pure beauty in the arts - dream-like & wistful.

Aesthetic silver design focused on decorative surface detail where the shape of pieces was borrowed from an earlier stylistic era, but now covered in a riot of flowers, plants and birds, featuring decorative motifs from Japan; herons, blossom, bamboo, chrysanthemum and butterflies.