Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Georgian Yellow-Metal Foliate Lorgnettes, Circa 1810

£75

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REF: 6248

Description

A fine and elegant pair of Georgian folding lorgnettes in yellow metal, dating to circa 1810. Delicately cast with foliate ornament, they are a beautifully preserved example of the refined personal accessories fashionable during the Regency period.

Designed to be carried discreetly and opened when required, lorgnettes became an essential accessory for the theatre, opera, and fashionable social occasions. Their folding construction allowed them to be tucked into a pocket, reticule, or travelling case, while the decorative yellow-metal frame made them a statement of taste as well as a practical optical aid.

The cast foliate decoration gives this pair a richly detailed and distinctly Georgian character. The softly scrolling leaves and organic ornament provide an appealing contrast to the precision of the folding mechanism, reflecting the period's preference for graceful, naturalistic design. When opened, the lorgnettes have an elegant, balanced profile; when folded, they become a compact and highly decorative object.

Objects of this quality evoke the rituals of Regency society, where theatre-going, visiting, and formal entertaining offered occasions for accessories to be seen and admired. Today, they would make a charming addition to a collection of antique optical instruments, Georgian jewellery and accessories, theatre memorabilia, or a finely curated cabinet of curiosities.

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