Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Late 19th-Century Natural Pearl and Diamond Crescent Brooch, Circa 1890

£1,950

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REF: 7184

Description

A beautiful late 19th-century crescent brooch, set with natural saltwater pearls and old brilliant-cut diamonds in an elegant gold and platinum mount, circa 1890. The jewel is a refined example of the crescent motif that became one of the most enduring and fashionable forms of Victorian jewellery.

The softly graduated arc is composed of lustrous natural pearls, their gentle iridescence enhanced by the lively sparkle of the old-cut diamonds. The use of platinum around the diamond settings provides a cool, bright contrast to the warmth of the gold mount, while allowing the stones to catch and reflect the light to full effect. This combination of materials is characteristic of fine late Victorian jewellery, when advances in setting techniques encouraged lighter, more fluid, and more luminous designs.

Crescent jewellery was especially popular in the second half of the 19th century. Associated with celestial imagery, romance, and renewal, the motif was worn as both a fashionable ornament and a symbolic jewel. Its curving form also made it particularly versatile: it could be worn alone on a lapel or bodice, or arranged with other brooches and pendants in the elaborate jewelled displays favoured during the period.

This example has a graceful, understated presence, balancing the soft glow of the natural saltwater pearls with the crisp brilliance of the diamonds. A sophisticated jewel of excellent period character, it would make a distinguished addition to a collection of antique diamond jewellery, Victorian brooches, or natural pearl pieces.

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