

Belle Époque silver plaque brooch

£120



REF: 7216

Height: 4 cm (1.6")

Width: 7 cm (2.8")

Description

A Belle Époque silver marcasite plaque brooch with a floral design, circa 1910.

Marcasite is a mineral composed of iron sulphide, closely related to pyrite but with a different crystal structure. Known for its metallic lustre and pale brass-yellow colour, it has historically been used in jewelry, often as small faceted stones called "marcasite gems."

Unlike pyrite, marcasite is more brittle and can oxidise over time, forming a powdery surface. It was especially popular in Victorian-era jewellery for its sparkle and affordability.

Marcasite is not only valued for adornment but also studied by mineralogists for its crystallography and geochemical formation in sedimentary rocks. Its distinctive shimmer makes it a timeless decorative choice.