Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Silver mounted smelling salts vial

Sold

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 6404

Height: 6 cm (2.4")

Diameter: 2 cm (0.8")

Description

A 19th century silver mounted bullet shaped glass smelling salts vial with original glass stopper.

Smelling salts are a traditional stimulant made from ammonium carbonate, used to revive someone from fainting or dizziness. The strong, sharp scent triggers an inhalation reflex, increasing breathing and heart rate. Commonly used in sports and medical settings, they have been in use since the Roman era for quick revival.

Smelling salts were popular in Victorian England due to their ability to quickly revive individuals who fainted, a common occurrence, especially among women. Tight corsets, emotional sensitivities, and the era's restrictive social norms contributed to frequent fainting spells. Their use became associated with refinement and decorum, often carried in small, decorative vials as part of Victorian ladies' accessories.

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