

Lord Byron Interest. A William IV Castle top Vinaigrette depicting Newstead Abbey, home of Lord Byron. Made in Birmingham in 1835 by Taylor & Perry.

Sold



Description

The Vinaigrette is broad rectangular in form with engine turned sides and a cast floral outer frame on the cover and the base. The base is also decorated with crisp engine turned designs around a rectangular cartouche engraved with the name "Rebecca". The cover displays a crisp, finely detailed, view of Newstead Abbey, home of Lord Byron. The interior is finely gilded and displays a very unusual grille pierced with a central floral and foliate wheel motif, surrounded by pluming scrolls and floral details. The box is very well marked in the base and on the underside of the cover, as well as a maker's mark and sterling mark on the underside of the cover. Newstead was never actually an abbey, but a priory of Austin canons. After the dissolution of the monasteries it was bought by the Byron family from Henry VIII. The poet, the 6th Lord Byron, inherited it in 1798, when aged ten, but sold it in 1817 to his friend Colonel, Thomas Wildman. He saved the Abbey, spending over £ 100,000 on its restoration and amassed a large collection of Byron memorabilia there. The Abbey was sold by Wildman's widow in 1859. Taylor & Perry were exceptional box makers. They introduced this view of the West front of Newstead in 1835/36, therefore this represents an early example. They used, as their source, a lithograph by Day & Haghe. The die closely copies the lithograph both in the detail of the house and the lake in the foreground. Length: 1.65 inches, 4.13 cm. Width: 1.1 inches, 2.75 cm. Depth: 0.45 inches, 1.13 cm.