Finch & Co



VICTORIAN EDUCATIONAL ALPHABET CONSISTING OF CARVED AND STAINED BONE LETTERS

A VICTORIAN EDUCATIONAL ALPHABET CONSISTING OF CARVED AND STAINED BONE LETTERS
ENCLOSED WITHIN A SECTIONED MAHOGANY BOX, THE LID WITH AN IVORY PLAQUE INSCRIBED 'SPELLING ALPHABET'
MID 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 28CM WIDE, 16.5CM DEEP, 3CM HIGH – 11 INS WIDE, 6½ INS DEEP, 1¼ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

IT IS DIFFICULT TO DRAW A CLEAR LINE OF DEMARCATION BETWEEN TUITION AND AMUSEMENT, AS MANY EARLY GAMES AND PUZZLES HAD AN EDUCATIONAL MOTIVE. HOWEVER, THIS ALPHABET HAD A DEFINITE EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVE, ESPECIALLY AS SOME OF THE LETTERS ARE MARKED WITH ACUTE, CIRCUMFLEX OR GRAVE ACCENTS. THESE MARKS ARE PLACED OVER LETTERS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FRENCH LANGUAGE TO SHOW QUALITY, VOWEL LENGTH AND PRONUNCIATION. THIS SET OF LETTERS WAS THEREFORE USED IN THE TEACHING OF BOTH THE FRENCH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE IN THE WRITTEN AND SPOKEN WORD.