Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Black Forest Articulated Gentleman Bottle Stopper, Circa 1910

£60

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REF: 7339

Height: 15 cm (5.9")

Width: 6 cm (2.4")

Depth: 4 cm (1.6")

Description

A charming and finely carved Black Forest bottle stopper, dating to circa 1910, modelled as a gentleman raising his hat in greeting. Carved from wood with a wonderfully expressive character, this small but highly engaging object combines the warmth of traditional Alpine carving with an ingenious articulated mechanism.

The figure is dressed in early 20th-century attire and shown in the familiar gesture of doffing his hat. When operated, the articulated head and arm animate the figure, transforming an otherwise practical bottle stopper into a miniature work of folk-art theatre. The detail, humour, and movement typical of the Black Forest tradition are all present in this delightful piece.

Black Forest carving developed in the alpine regions of Switzerland and southern Germany, where skilled makers became renowned for creating characterful wooden animals, figures, household objects, and novelties. By the late 19th and early 20th centuries, these playful yet carefully made objects had become highly sought-after souvenirs and decorative accessories.

Both functional and decorative, this articulated stopper would make a characterful addition to a bar, drinks cabinet, or collection of antique treen. It is also an appealing object for collectors of Black Forest carvings, mechanical novelties, and early 20th-century European folk art.

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