Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Boxed East Asian Coloured-Bone Gaming Set

£45

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REF: 3472

Description

An intriguing boxed East Asian coloured-bone gaming set, comprising an assortment of finely made counters or puzzle pieces in a range of dyed colours. Presented in its fitted box, the set has the tactile appeal and quiet visual charm of a traditional table game, while its unusual form leaves open the possibility that it was intended for a dexterity, puzzle, or counting game.

Each piece has been shaped from bone and coloured to create a pleasing contrast of tones. The use of bone gives the components a smooth, warm surface, while the compact format suggests an object designed to be handled, arranged, and enjoyed at leisure. Whether used as gaming counters, puzzle elements, or tokens for a now-lost pastime, the set is a fascinating survival from the domestic world of traditional games and amusements.

Small boxed sets such as this were valued not only for entertainment but also for their craftsmanship and portability. They could be kept in a household, taken on journeys, or brought out for social gatherings, offering a simple but absorbing form of recreation. The original box enhances the appeal, keeping the pieces together and giving the set a strong sense of completeness.

An unusual and decorative object for collectors of antique games, East Asian decorative arts, treen, and domestic curiosities. It would display beautifully in a cabinet of curiosities, library, study, or games room, where its colourful components and unanswered mystery are sure to invite conversation.

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