Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Victorian Toleware Tea Canister, No. 26

£495

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 7502

Height: 45 cm (17.7")

Diameter: 25 cm (9.8")

Description

A rare Victorian green-painted toleware tea canister by A. Gilbert & Sons, London, dating to circa 1840. With its rich green ground, hand-painted gilt numbering, and elegant early Victorian character, this is a particularly decorative survival from the period when tea storage formed an important part of the well-appointed household.

The cylindrical canister is finished in a deep green japanned paint, its surface enhanced by the hand-painted gilt number "26". Such numbered canisters would have formed part of a larger set, used by grocers, tea dealers, or affluent households to identify different teas, blends, or stock. The warm contrast between the dark green ground and lustrous gilt decoration gives the piece a handsome visual presence, while the pleasing signs of age contribute to its authentic period charm.

Most notably, the canister retains the maker's mark of A. Gilbert & Sons, London-a scarce and desirable feature that provides a direct connection to its 19th-century maker. London-made toleware of this quality was valued for its durability as well as its decorative finish, combining practical household function with the fashionable taste for painted and gilded metalware.

Today, this canister is an engaging object for display in a kitchen, pantry, library, or collector's cabinet. It would make a fine addition to a collection of antique tea wares, English toleware, Victorian decorative arts, or early advertising and shop fittings.

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