Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

J. Rabone & Sons Boxwood and Brass Folding Rule, Circa 1900

£15

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 4578

Description

A fine and slender 24-inch folding rule by the renowned Birmingham toolmaker J. Rabone & Sons, dating to circa 1900. Crafted from warm-toned boxwood with neatly inset brass fittings, this handsome measuring instrument is a beautifully made example of the practical tools used by architects, builders, surveyors, engineers, and cabinetmakers at the turn of the 20th century.

The rule unfolds to a full 24 inches and is designed to fold neatly into a compact form when not in use. Its articulated brass joints provide both durability and precision, while the boxwood body has acquired a rich, mellow patina through age and handling. The clear graduated scale and pleasingly slim profile reflect the quality of manufacture for which J. Rabone & Sons became so highly regarded.

J. Rabone & Sons was among the best-known names in British rule-making, producing measuring instruments admired for their accuracy, robust construction, and restrained elegance. Today, their folding rules are valued not only as useful historic tools but also as tactile objects that represent the skill, ingenuity, and material culture of traditional craftsmanship.

A particularly attractive example for collectors of antique tools, drafting instruments, and industrial design, this rule would also make an evocative desk accessory or thoughtful gift for an architect, maker, or woodworker.

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