Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

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

£35

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

REF: 4576

Description

An elegant early 20th-century folding yard rule by the renowned Birmingham toolmakers J. Rabone & Sons, dating to circa 1900. Made from warm honey-coloured boxwood and fitted with brass joints, this finely engineered measuring tool is both a practical instrument and a handsome example of traditional British craftsmanship.

The rule folds neatly into a compact form, its articulated boxwood sections opening to create a full yard measure. Brass fittings reinforce the joints and provide a pleasing visual contrast to the close-grained timber, while also reflecting the precision and durability expected of a professional-quality rule. Over time, the wood has acquired a rich, mellow patina that enhances its quiet visual appeal.

J. Rabone & Sons was one of the leading makers of measuring tools in Britain, particularly associated with the production of high-quality rules for architects, engineers, surveyors, and craftsmen. Founded in Birmingham, the firm earned a lasting reputation for accurate, well-made instruments, and examples bearing the Rabone name remain highly collectable today.

More than a utilitarian object, this folding yard rule is a refined piece of industrial design from an era when even everyday tools were made with care, proportion, and enduring materials. It would make a thoughtful addition to a collection of antique scientific instruments, treen, workshop tools, or decorative objects for a desk, library, study, or interiors with a workshop-inspired aesthetic.

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