

Set of Six Hand-Painted Wooden Sailor Skittles, Circa 1930

£45



Description

A wonderfully characterful set of six hand-painted wooden sailor skittles, dating from circa 1930. Each figure is individually carved and painted as a jaunty naval character, complete with uniform, cap, expressive face, and its own subtly different personality. Far more engaging than a conventional children's game, the group has the charm and humour of early 20th-century folk art.

Likely made for a nursery, seaside holiday home, or family games room, these cheerful skittles evoke a period when children's toys were designed to be durable, imaginative, and full of character. Their simple turned forms and lively painted decoration give each sailor a wonderfully animated presence, while the variations between the figures suggest the hand of the maker rather than mass production.

The naturally worn paint surface is an important part of their appeal. Small marks, rubbing, and signs of handling speak to years of play and lend the set a warmth and authenticity that cannot be reproduced. Together, the six figures form a charming miniature crew, each with an expressive face and a pleasingly individual stance.

Displayed as a group, they make an eccentric and decorative addition to a child's room, coastal interior, study, games room, or collector's cabinet. They would also bring humour and personality to a bookshelf, mantelpiece, or hall table, where their small scale and animated expressions invite a closer look.

A delightful and increasingly uncommon set of early 20th-century wooden toys, combining playfulness, decorative appeal, and the enduring charm of hand-painted craftsmanship.