

Unusual novelty pair of opera glasses

Sold



Description

An unusual novelty pair of crocodile skin, brass, paste and opaline lady's purse opera glasses circa 1910.

Opera glasses are small, portable binoculars designed for viewing performances in theatres, opera houses, and concert halls. Popular in the 18th and 19th centuries, they allowed audiences to see stage details more clearly without compromising elegance.

Often crafted from materials like brass, mother-of-pearl, or enamel, they were as much a fashion accessory as a practical tool. Unlike standard binoculars, opera glasses usually have lower magnification, ensuring a wider field of view in indoor settings.

Many came with delicate handles or chains for convenience. Today, antique opera glasses are collectible items, reflecting both the artistry and social culture of past eras.