Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Victorian pinchbeck and banded agate brooch

£85

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 6503

Description

An early Victorian pinchbeck and banded agate brooch with glazed compartment to the rear containing a lock of a loved-one's hair, circa 1840

Pinchbeck is a type of alloy, primarily composed of copper and zinc, resembling gold. Invented in the 18th century by Christopher Pinchbeck, it was widely used for crafting affordable jewellery, watch cases, and decorative items. Known for its durability and golden appearance, it provided an economical alternative to gold without sacrificing aesthetic appeal.

Popular during the Georgian and Victorian eras, its use diminished when stricter hallmarking laws and electroplating made alternatives more accessible.

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