OXFORD MARTYRS' MEMORIAL. An exceptionally rare Vinaigrette made in Birmingham in 1850 by Nathaniel Mills.

£4,250

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REF: 374906

Description

This extremely rare Vinaigrette is of shaped rectangular form with a raised scroll border. The cover displays a raised scene depicting the Martyrs' Memorial, Oxford, in high relief, with the Church of St Mary Magdalene in the background. The sides are engraved with trellis work and engraved shell details in addition to displaying a cast floral thumb piece. The base is engraved with different horizontal bands of engine turned designs around a scroll cartouche. The interior displays fine gilding and a grille pierced, and engraved, with feathery scrolls and a central flower head. This piece is in excellent condition and is very well marked on the inside of the cover, in the base and on the underside of the grille with the maker's mark and duty mark. This is a particularly rare scene, the first time we have offered one over the years.The Martyrs' Memorial is an imposing stone monument positioned at the intersection of St. Giles', Magdalen Street and Beaumont Street in Oxford, just outside of Balliol College. It commemorates the 16th century, "Oxford Marttyrs". Designed by Sir George Gilbert Scott, the monument was completed in 1843 after two years' work having replaced "a picturesque, but tottering old house". The Victorian Gothic Memorial, whose design dates from 1838, has been likened to the spire of some sunken cathedral. The three statues of Thomas Cramer, Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley are by Henry Weekes. The monument is grade II listed.Cuthbert Bede (in his novel The Adventures of Mr Verdant Green) wrote about the setting of the Martyrs' Memorial, thus in 1853: " He who enters the city, as Mr Green did, from the Woodstock Road, and rolls down the shady avenue of St. Giles', between St John's College and the Taylor Buildings, and past the graceful Martyrs' Memorial, will receive impressions such as probably no other city in the world could convey."Length: 2.1 inches, 5,25 cm.Width: 1.1 inches, 2.75 cm.Height: 0.5 inches, 1.25 cm

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