



The Thomas Milner Leather Studded Safe

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The Story

Thomas Milner was one of the quintessential names in the history of lock, bolt and safe making. Born in 1791, he was apprenticed to his father at an early age as a tinsmith and brazier. For the next eleven years, he was not allowed to take a drink nor a day off without his father's express permission! His wages were sixteen pence per annum! By 1824, trained in the manufacture of strongboxes and iron coffers, he received a commission from the Duke of Wellington and was contracted to supply safes to the War Office.

In 1830 Thomas Milner moved from Sheffield to Liverpool where he became a pioneer in the development of fire-resistant safes. He liked to demonstrate their excellence by placing them in the centre of massive bonfires which always attracted a huge crowd. This wonderful combination dial Milner safe was made around 1875, embellished with the trademark circular plaque boasting the royal crest of The Lion & The Unicorn and the legend: Milner's Patent Fire Resisting. The lock is concealed beneath a sliding plaque adorned with a phoenix rising from the flames. It reads: Milner's Safe - Powder Proof - Solid Lock - Liverpool & London. Exported from the UK to Singapore to serve in the shop house of a wealthy merchant trader, the importer's name plate reads: Singapore - Imported by Guthrie & Co. Ltd. - Kuala Lumpur.

The exterior of the safe has been designed by master leather craftsman, Gavin Rookledge. A series of individual squares of deep burgundy hide have been hand-cut and pinned into place to resemble the kind of ancient coffer one might find in a haunted castle. Imagine the mysteries contained therein! To elevate the safe, we have created a magnificent cabinet base in ebony macassar with tulipwood inlay framed by four solid brass columns. A glass-fronted door opens to reveal airtight cedar-lined storage for



up to one thousand cigars humidified by Diamond Crown systems. A leather-lined and compartmentalized accessories drawer completes the cabinet.

The safe's interior is an innovative humidor with tilted vented cedar trays behind which are secreted humidified storage compartments. This stunning piece of Victorian history, modernized by the creative cabinet making skills of today's British masters, is truly an object of desire, one of a kind of collectible furniture rarely found in the world today.

Dimensions:

46 w x 160 h x 44d

Weight:

180 kgs.