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## Whitby-jet, 19th Century Pendant Jewelry In Wood Or Fossil Lignite, Town Of Whitby, Yorkshire



220 EUR

Signature : Issu de la Ville de Whitby, Yorkshire, Angleterre  
(La mode de ces bijoux noir dit Whitby-jet fut lancée par la reine Victoria en 1861).

Period : 19th century

Condition : Très bon état

Material : Solid wood

Width : maxi. 3,3 cm

Height : 6,1 cm

### Description

Very beautiful pendant jewel called Whitby-Jet, jewels whose name comes from the town of Whitby, on the British coast, in Yorkshire, formerly the main deposit of jet or jet as the English say (also known, and not by chance, under the name of Withby-jet. A short history of these deep black jewels: What exactly is jet? It is a fossil lignite of black color (wood), shiny and ultra light which is used first for the manufacture of jewelry, but also to adorn various fashion accessories. All highlight this characteristic deep and shiny black. The fashion for these black jewels was launched by Her Majesty Queen Victoria herself, in 1861, following a tragic event: the death of her husband Albert. The origins of this jewel are therefore not really frivolous since they were born of mourning and were worn, at

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the time, to mark the sadness. In the 15 years that followed, jewelers began producing a profusion of necklaces, bracelets, earrings, brooches, and even belts in rigorous black to wear with the sadly unhappy outfits of these periods of mourning. Unhappy but effectively "launched" by the Royal House, and whose fashion lasted until the end of the 19th century. However, between 1875 and 1880, black jewelry saw its links with mourning disappear to conquer the much more pleasant role of simply a fashionable object. Then, like all fashions, this one spread throughout British society and the craze was such that, soon, the production of English jet was no longer able to satisfy market demand, with the consequence of soaring prices, which were already high. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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