Antique Folding Contessa-nettel Cocarette Luxus IV Camera. Germany, 1916-1922



450 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : Bon état

Length : 11,5 cm (4,5 in).

Height : 23 cm (9 in).

Description

This Contessa-Nettel Cocarette Luxus IV, manufactured in Germany, probably in Stuttgart, between 1916 and 1922, is an exceptional folding bellows camera belonging to the prestigious luxury line of Contessa-Nettel. This "Luxus" version was created to combine the highest aesthetic refinement with the technical precision that characterized early twentieth-century German photography. Designed for roll film in 8×14 cm format, the Cocarette Luxus IV was an advanced camera for its time. Its body is covered in genuine brown leather, with a matching bellows of the same tone, conveying elegance, warmth, and understated sophistication. These "Luxus" versions were significantly more expensive than the standard black Cocarette models and were aimed at professional

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photographers or affluent clients. This example is fitted with the famous Carl Zeiss Jena Tessar f/4.9 15 cm lens, renowned for its sharpness, contrast, and image quality. It features an original Compur shutter whose mechanisms and speeds work properly. The camera also retains its internal film take-up spool, a component often lost over time, making this example both complete and functional. The bellows are in excellent condition, maintaining their original color with no light leaks, a sign of outstanding preservation. The metal components remain clean, with no corrosion or deformation, and the Contessa-Nettel inscriptions are crisp and legible. The overall condition reflects careful handling and storage throughout its lifetime. The Cocarette Luxus IV model was one of the most exclusive versions of the range, notable not only for its large 8×14 cm format but also for its meticulous craftsmanship. These cameras were assembled by hand in Stuttgart workshops under strict quality control, which explains their durability and continued appeal among collectors today. This piece is not only a photographic instrument but also a witness to the golden age of German engineering. Its imposing size and brown leather finish make it an ideal collector's item or a decorative object of great elegance. It would look magnificent in a display case or on a desk, evoking the spirit of classic photography and the mechanical artistry of the early twentieth century.

Measurements: 23 × 11.5 cm (9 × 4.5 in).

History of the Contessa-Nettel Cocarette Luxus IV The company Contessa-Nettel was founded in Stuttgart, Germany, through the merger of Contessa Camerawerke and Nettel Camerawerk in 1919, both long-established camera manufacturers. The goal was to combine handcrafted design with technical innovation, uniting Nettel's mechanical expertise with Contessa's elegant designs. The Cocarette line became one of the company's most representative series, recognized for its folding system, portability, and ability to produce large formats in

compact bodies. In the Luxus version, Contessa-Nettel incorporated natural-colored leather finishes, matching bellows, and high-end lenses by Carl Zeiss Jena, elevating the camera to a luxury category. Around 1926, Contessa-Nettel became one of the firms integrated into the new Zeiss Ikon AG consortium, alongside Ica, Ernemann, and Goerz. This merger marked the continuation of the Cocarette line under the Zeiss Ikon brand, though pre-merger examples like this Cocarette Luxus IV are considered the most authentic and desirable among collectors. The "Zeiss Ikon" inscription appearing on some examples, such as this one, corresponds to the transitional period before the merger, when both companies already collaborated closely in supplying optics and components. This detail adds further historical value, reflecting the union of two major German photographic names before their consolidation under a single emblem. Today, the Cocarette Luxus IV is prized for its rarity, beauty, and historical importance in the development of portable large-format photography. It stands as a symbol of an era when art, engineering, and craftsmanship merged to create objects built to last a lifetime. We are professional antique dealers. To see more photos of this item, Please click on this link: https://www.antiguedades.es/en/antique-cameras/5359-antique-folding-contessa-nettel-cocarette-luxus-iv-camera-germany-c1919.html