



Mechanical Money Box



1 450 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : En l'état

Description

"TRANSVAAL MONEY BOX" - BRITISH SATIRICAL PRESS, CIRCA 1900. A striking example of British political satire around 1900, this "Transvaal Money Box" illustrates the intersection of London satirical press and a popular mechanical object during the Boer Wars. Published with the permission of the Westminster Gazette, it transcends the simple toy to become a fragment of visual history from English print culture. The caricatured figure, wearing a top hat inscribed "TRANSVAAL MONEY BOX," comes to life when a coin is inserted: the internal mechanism sets the pipe in motion, creating a narrative scene characteristic of late 19th-century British mechanical coin-casting machines. The deliberately irregular modeling of the face, the softness of the reliefs, and the early polychromy

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give the piece an expressive presence reminiscent of press iconography. On the reverse, molded markings: "BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETORS OF THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE" and "MADE IN ENGLAND." Cast in two parts with original screw; functional mechanism; early polychromy showing natural wear consistent with age. Material analysis and period criteria: A careful examination of the piece reveals several characteristics consistent with British production around 1900, typical of mechanical castings from English satirical culture:

- o Caricatured modeling of the face: deliberately irregular features, heavy eyelids, and slight asymmetry of the gaze, characteristics of hand-carved molds inspired by press iconography. The beard has a relief softened by use, without mechanical repetition of the striations.
- o Quality of the molding and relief: the secondary details -- waistcoat buttons, lips and internal areas of the hat -- show a slightly softened relief, consistent with an old casting rather than a modern casting with overly sharp edges.
- o Old polychromy: natural wear on the raised parts, micro-pitting and pigment accumulation in the recesses, testifying to gradual aging and not a uniform artificial patina.

Original molded markings: "BY PERMISSION OF THE PROPRIETORS OF THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE" and "MADE IN ENGLAND", indicating authorized production linked to the London press.

- o Construction and mechanism: cast in two parts with an old screw; Internal mechanism still functional, animating the pipe when a coin is inserted; the slightly irregular movement is typical of late 19th-century mechanical systems.

United Kingdom, circa 1900. Polychrome cast iron, mechanical.

Dimensions: H. 15.5 cm; L. 11 cm; W. 9.5 cm