Crocodile Suitcase Toffee Tin

Sold

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Height: 8.89 cm (3.5")

Width: 26.02 cm (10.2")

Depth: 19.04 cm (7.5")

Description

A lithographic printed N.B. Walters Toffee Tin in the form of a Crocodile Suitcase.

The tin has a stitched leather handle and could be used as a small case or perhaps a lunchbox once the toffees had been eaten. This form of tin was made for at least two other toffee manufacturers. A Turnwright's Toffee De-Light in green crocodile is known as well as a Maison Lyons snakeskin suitcase. All three tins are identical apart from the printing.

The suitcase's lid interior has a colourful advert for the company and states ' Walters' Palm Toffee Most Delicious The Delightful Creemy Toffee'. Creamy is purposely misspelt. To the top is printed 'Diploma of Honor Awarded.' with 'Manufactured by N.B. Walters. "Swan Works. London. E.14. Established 1887.'

The printing of the tin as a Crocodile Suitcase as opposed to a leather suitcase suggests luxury which no doubt they wanted to associate with their 'Delightful Creemy Toffee' despite their reasonable prices. The Poplar address dates the tin to before 1926. Circa 1920.

Decorative Tins
The rise of the biscuit and confectionary decorative tin is linked to both legislation and innovation. Huntley & Palmer are the most recognised name when it comes to such tins and they were the first to sell their products in metal tins in the 1830s. This was purely wholesale for grocers to put on their counters, and it wasn't until 1861 with the Licensed Grocer's Act that customers could buy a packet of goods. Sixteen years later offset lithography allowed manufacturers to print onto interestingly shaped metal tins. If a customer was encouraged to keep a decorative tin, they would be reminded to buy more of the contents within them. By the end of the century, competition amongst manufacturers to make their product stand out above others led to increasingly more complex and exciting tins. The 1920s and 1930s saw a pinnacle in their design. Regular shaped tins with fashionable images and art of the day led to all sorts of wonderful shapes imitating everyday items to appeal to both adults and children. Tins can be found decorated with Wedgewood pottery designs or shaped as a double decker bus for children to play with. Eventually life imitated art when potters Burgess & Leigh copied the shape and artwork of a Huntley & Palmers tin to make a teapot in 1896. A huge range of tins were produced by a number of different manufacturers and there are ardent collectors looking for them.

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