



Christopher Clarke Antiques

Dealers in Campaign Furniture  
& Travel Items

## Railway Decanter By S. Mordan & Co.

Sampson Mordan & Co.

Sold



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REF: 83155

Height: 16.5 cm (6.5")

Width: 6.98 cm (2.7")

Depth: 6.35 cm (2.5")

## Description

A glass decanter bottle with a stirrup drinking glass that also acts as the stopper.

The small decanter with glass is housed in a dark red leather on card case which is stamped with the maker's name 'S. Mordan & Co.' London' in gilt. The letter T is stamped in a circle with a star edge to the top and may have been to identify the owner.

This form of travel decanter was often marketed under the name of a Railway Companion with the aim of providing refreshment to the traveller. A few different companies produced their own versions of them. Sampson Mordan & Co. are better known for their silver propelling pencils and sets of scales but offered a wide range of luxury goods, with many practical for the traveller. Late 19th Century.

## Railway Companions

The rise in travel by rail in the second half of the 19th century and the need to occupy your time on a long journey, opened up a new market for makers of travel and luxury goods. Railway Companions would provide you with refreshments; games boards that could sit on the knees of two passengers sat opposite each other provided entertainment; kit bag locks could secure your belongs to overhead racks or railings. Railway Companions were made by a few different makers, and some were unnamed. The glass also acting as a stopper for the decanter saved space but also meant a drink could be poured without having to hold or find somewhere to put the stopper whilst doing so.