



Dr C. Dresser Attributed for Benham & Froud Pair of Brass Fire Dogs

Ref: PV004057

£280

MAKER	Benham & Froud
DESIGNER	Dr Christopher Dresser
PERIOD	Arts & Crafts Movement , 1890-1899
YEAR	1890
STYLE	Arts and Crafts
ORIGIN	United Kingdom
MATERIALS	Brass
DIMENSIONS	H: 5.5 in (13.97 cm) W: 7 in (17.78 cm) D: 7 in (17.78 cm)
CONDITION	Excellent

About this piece

This pair of brass fire dogs attributed to Dr Christopher Dresser for Benham and Froud represents the sculptural precision and industrial artistry of the *Arts and Crafts movement* 1880–1910. The design unites geometric form with organic rhythm, a hallmark of Dresser’s analytical approach to ornament and proportion.

Each fire dog is constructed in cast brass with a spherical central body raised on three splayed legs and surmounted by a crossbar handle ending in stylised scrolls. The simplicity of their functional geometry demonstrates Dresser’s conviction that design should be

guided by utility and clarity of form. The manufacturer Benham and Froud, noted for their collaboration with Dresser, produced numerous domestic metalwares that balanced factory production with artistic intent.

This model, modest in scale yet refined in execution, expresses the transition between late Victorian ornament and the disciplined minimalism that would shape early modern design. Their survival as a matched pair preserves a direct link to one of Britain's most influential design partnerships of the nineteenth century.