



**AN EXCEPTIONAL AND LARGE SKELETON CLOCK  
ATTRIBUTED TO EVANS OF HANDSWORTH**

**Dimensions: H: 28 in / 71 cm | W: 17 in / 43 cm | D: 8.5 in / 22 cm**

**9435**



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The multi-tiered pierced [gilt brass](#) frame of the skeleton clock after the design of the famous York Minster, the clock with a twin fusee movement with a half-deadbeat escapement striking the bell every half hour, and gong striking every hour, supported on an oval [marble](#) base and protected under a glass dome, the movement mounted between two silhouettes of the cathedral, with an identical tracery plate at the front portal mounted with a silvered dial denoting the hours in Roman numeral and blued steel fleur-de-lys hands.

English, circa 1855

York Minster (minster meaning large church in Anglo-Saxon) is the largest Gothic cathedral in Western Europe. Its origins date back as far as 627 when a church was built for the baptism of Edwin, king of Northumbria. The church underwent various transformations and destructions and work

began on the Minster as it is currently recognised in 1220 when Archbishop Gray decided to rebuild it on a scale to rival Canterbury. The South Transept was rebuilt between 1220 and 1250 and the North Transept was started and finished a few years after. Work on the nave began in 1291. Building was to continue for some 250 years, with the twin towers of the western front being completed in 1472. These are the towers shown on Victorian skeleton clocks.

#### Evans of Handsworth

W.F. Evans of Handsworth, near Birmingham, built his reputation during the 19th century as a masterful clockmaker specialising in intricate skeleton clocks. He exhibited at the 1851 Great Exhibition, where a "Gothic skeleton clock" was among his display.