LANGFORDS
Antique & Contemporary Silver

Antique silver capstan inkwell

John Grinsell & Sons

Sold

Langfords
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REF: 2394

Height: 75 mm (2.95")

Diameter: 65 mm (2.56")

Weight: 119 g

Description

Smart late-Victorian silver inkwell in the form of a capstan with applied rope mount. This piece is better quality than most in that the body is all silver and is of a superior gauge of silver.

A capstan is a most frequently nautical machine for moving or raising heavy weights that consists of a vertical drum which can be rotated and around which cable is turned.

In 16th century Europe writing was considered to be a lowly task, and the aristocracy and upper classes would employ the services of a scribe or scrivener to write on their behalf using a quill pen and ink.

From the 17th century onwards, as the gentry began to undertake writing themselves, inkwells and inkstands became an essential accessory in every upper-class household. Silver, often combined with glass or crystal, was the most popular material used for inkstands and as well as having a practical use, some became more imposing and elaborate, often turning into decorative pieces in their own right.

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