Antique two-bottle sterling silver inkstand

West & Son

£850



REF: 6670

Langfords
London Silver Vaults • Vaults 8 & 10 • 53-64 Chancery Lane • London • WC2A 1QS
+44 20 7242 6646 • silver@langfords.com • www.langfords.com

Width: 265 mm (10.43")

Depth: 105 mm (4.13")

Weight: 241 g

Description

This very pretty Edwardian inkstand has delicately pierced sides and a seashell, scroll and gadroon border and is in excellent condition. Its original cut glass bottles are both fitted with fully hallmarked silver mounts and lids with similar gadroon decoration.

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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