

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Small antique sterling silver inkstand & cut glass inkwell

James Deakin & Sons

£380



REF: 7153

Height: 35 mm (1.38")

Width: 125 mm (4.92")

Depth: 70 mm (2.76")

Weight: 96 g

Description

Delightful, antique handmade silver inkstand with a crisply hand pierced gallery border featuring an applied egg and dart border, and mounted on four curved supports. The single cut glass ink bottle is decorated with a diamond pattern and is surmounted by a silver collar and cover hand engraved with a thread pattern.

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.