

LANGFORDS

Antique & Contemporary Silver

Silver-plated horse hoof inkwell

Rowland Ward

Sold



REF: 2172

Height: 102 mm (4.02")

Width: 190 mm (7.48")

Diameter: 110 mm (4.33")

Description

Victorian inkstand with silver-plated mounts fitted to a horse's hoof, with integral pen rest. This type of piece was usually made in memory of a favourite horse whose hoof would have been used.

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.