An exceptional and large Ottoman scribe's desk

£28,500



REF: 6112

Height: 37 cm (14.6")

Foster & Gane, Three Pigeons, London Road, Milton Common, Thame, Oxfordshire, OX9 2JN
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Width: 66 cm (26")

Depth: 38 cm (15")

Description

Of rectangular form on four bracket feet. Made of olivewood inlaid with kundekari decoration of tortoiseshell, mother-of-pearl, ivory, bone and metal wire in geometric designs. A single central drawer subdivided into three sections.

Constantinople, Turkey, circa 1700

Provenance: Sir Richard Ashton Beaumont (1912-2009) - knight, diplomat and Arabist; thence by descent

Condition: The desk was sensitively conserved in the early 2000s. One missing slip of ivory stringing to the front

Ivory Act submission reference: BBP81CGH

An identical desk is in the British Museum, inv. no. 1991,0717.2 though their example has been later adapted to include a mirror and satin lining. Originally designed for the use of a scholar or calligrapher, the surface served as a desk and the drawer for books and writing ephemera.

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