

Basic Detail Report



Title Inkstand

Date 1785-1790

Primary Maker Unknown

Medium Cast pewter, blown glass

Description Cast pewter inkstand with a dome on top, a rectangular body with two drawers, and a low, square base. The inkstand holds a glass ink bottle (.c), which is accessible by removing the lid. The lid (.b) of the inkstand consists of a dome with a small finial, joined by a hinge to a flat, square plate. The plate has a

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large round hole in the center which is covered by the dome; this hole provides

access to the ink bottle opening. The plate has a small round hole at each corner

and four pairs of incised lines outlining the top. The underside of the plate has a

square lip with arched sides. The body of the inkstand (.a) has a shallow

compartment at the top. This compartment holds the rectangular, mold-blown,

colorless glass ink bottle (.c) with a pontil mark on the bottom. Below this are

two drawers, one over the other. Each drawer has a small knob on the front. The

bottom drawer has a plate that is soldered in place inside the top edge of the

drawer sides; the plate has many small punched holes. The bottom of the

inkstand consists of a low, square platform with ovolo, or quarter-round, curved

sides. The inkstand is constructed of cast pewter that is soldered together.

Skimming marks are visible on all exterior surfaces of the inkstand. Skimming

Marks: Skimming marks are concentric rings left on cast pewter objects by

skimming tools. Skimming is the process of removing metal and smoothing

rough surfaces by scraping the pewter object as it rotates on a lathe.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width at base x depth at base): 4 1/4 x

3 1/4 x 3 1/4in. (10.8 x 8.3 x 8.3cm)