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Title Portable Writing Desk

Date 1865

Primary Maker Mary Buel Brace

Medium cardboard, leather, paper, glass, metal

Description Portable desk, the size and shape of a large book, with a flap that wraps around one side and closes with a lock. The top and bottom surfaces are covered in a thin letter and have been embossed with a series of oval and triangular figures. The large oval on the flap, just above the lock, has been imprinted in gold "Mary B. Brace / 1865". An expansion folder is attached to the top of the box when opened, with a green cloth-covered writing surface. A black loop pulls the writing surface up to reveal a large space for paper and envelopes, a narrow covered box with three spaces inside for pens and nibs, and a glass ink bottle (b) with a crew top. On the bottom of the writing surface are 6 loops of

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black fabric to hold pens, rulers, or other writing equipment. There is a black straight edge (c) in the first loop. Handing from the second loop is the key (d) for the desk. Several samples of paper are in the compartment under the writing surface.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions closed: (Height) 12 \times (Width) 9 \times (Depth) 17 /8in. (30.5 \times 22.9 \times 4.8cm) Primary Dimensions open: (Height) 12 \times (Width) 13 \times (Depth) 17/8in. (30.5 \times 33 \times 4.8cm)