

SA1171870

Antique George IV Burr Elm Adjustable Library Reading Table c.1830

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1171870****Date of manufacture: Georgian**

Dimensions

Height = 66.5 cm (26.2")

Width = 87 cm (34.3")

Depth = 51 cm (20.1")

Description

A George IV adjustable library reading and writing table in richly figured burr elm. The rectangular top is fitted with a tooled green leather writing surface and combines a flat writing section at one end with a pair of back-to-back hinged reading stands at the other so the table can be used comfortably from either side. Each reading stand is supported on hinged wooden stays with notched positions to adjust the angle. The height of the table is adjusted by a brass pin, the inner shaft of oak sliding within the burr elm-veneered octagonal column, all raised on a shaped platform base designed to slide neatly beneath the sitter's chair. These tables were conceived for the library or study, allowing a gentleman or lady to read, annotate and write letters from a fireside chair. The offset platform foot and height adjustment make it possible to draw the top comfortably over the lap, while the flat section provides space for inkwells or notes beside an open book. The choice of a leather surface reflects early nineteenth-century refinement, offering a smooth yet absorbent writing surface suited to quill or dip pens. The absence of a book rail is deliberate, giving a clean ed...

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