

SA385291

Fine late C19th carved marble
'Grand Tour' souvenir ink-stand,
probably Maltese by Darmanin.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA385291

Date of manufacture: 1860

Dimensions

Height = 5.08 cm (2.0")

Width = 29.2101 cm (11.5")

Depth = 25.4001 cm (10.0")

Description

Fine late C19th carved marble 'Grand Tour' souvenir ink-stand, probably Maltese by Darmanin. Beautifully designed and executed, carved scallop-shell form desk ink-stand or standish. Carved from a single piece of stone, believed to be either Marmo Giallo Antico or Jaune de Valence, with striking figuring and colour. The carved and 'ribbed' shell body has an integral 3-division ink/pen/sand section to the rear. The reverse of the piece has a clearly incised letter "D" carved to the flat surface. We believe this to be the signature of the famous Maltese marble sculptors, Darmanin & Sons. Renowned for their armorial table-tops and sculptural objects, the firm founded by Giuseppe Darmanin (1779-1863) in about 1800, were the most prominent marble-workers in C19th Malta. Many of their marble-inlaid table-tops feature Mediterranean shells in the decoration, further adding to our attribution. Giuseppetti Darmanin e Figli (J. Darmanin & Sons) exhibited at The Great Exhibition of 1851 at the Crystal Palace, London. Examples of their workmanship are in the Royal Collection of H.M Queen Elizabeth. The scallop shell has from the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome on...

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