



Writing Desk Set

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Māori

Medium

Wood, glass, abalone shell and metal

Description

Despite the style of this desk set, inscriptions on the glass inkwells indicate that it was made in England. Britain colonized New Zealand in 1841 and by the end of the century retailers began selling curios and western furnishings with the high relief carvings, abalone shell inlay, and tattooed figures seen in Māori artwork.

Dimensions

a: $3 \frac{1}{4} \times 14 \frac{5}{8} \times 9 \frac{1}{8}$ in. ($8.3 \times 37.1 \times 23.2$ cm) b: $1 \frac{3}{8} \times 3 \times 3$ in. ($3.5 \times 7.6 \times 7.6$ cm) c: $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{3}{8} \times 2 \frac{7}{8}$ in. ($1.3 \times 6 \times 7.3$ cm) d: $1 \frac{3}{8} \times 3 \times 3$ in. ($3.5 \times 7.6 \times 7.6$ cm) e: $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 \frac{1}{2} \times 3$ in. ($1.3 \times 6.4 \times 7.6$ cm) f: $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{3}{8} \times 6$ in. ($1 \times 1 \times 15.2$ cm) g: $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{3}{8} \times 7 \frac{3}{8}$ in. ($1 \times 1 \times 18.7$ cm)