Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

French Adjustable "Féret Table Hygiénique" Desk, Circa 1889

£750

Emmett & White Ltd
Cross House, Waterloo Square, Alfriston, East Sussex BN26 5UD
01323 870 595 • info@emmettandwhite.com • emmettandwhite.com

REF: 6271

Height: 70 cm (27.6")

Width: 65 cm (25.6")

Depth: 47 cm (18.5")

Description

A rare and remarkably practical French adjustable desk by Féret, known as the "Table Hygiénique," circa 1889. Designed with health, comfort, and adaptability in mind, this ingenious late 19th-century piece anticipates the modern sit-stand desk by allowing its walnut writing surface to be raised from approximately 70 to 140 cm.

The desk can be used comfortably while seated or standing, making it an exceptionally forward-thinking solution for writing, reading, drawing, or study. Its elegant walnut construction combines utility with understated French design, while the adjustable upper section offers a satisfying balance of mechanical ingenuity and refined cabinetmaking.

The writing surface retains its original brass and porcelain inkwell, positioned beside an integral pen tray-a charming survival that preserves the desk's intended use and period character. A single shelf beneath provides practical storage for books, papers, or writing materials.

The Féret Table Hygiénique was exhibited at the Exposition Universelle in Paris in 1889, the same celebrated international exhibition for which the Eiffel Tower was constructed. It is a fascinating document of the period's enthusiasm for innovation, hygiene, and progressive design, and a rare example of furniture created to improve the everyday working environment.

Equally compelling as a functional desk, a collector's piece, or a statement in an interior, this unusual model would suit a library, study, office, or design-led living space. A beautifully conceived and historically evocative piece of French furniture that feels as relevant today as it did at the close of the 19th century.

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