



**BUTCHOFF**  
LONDON

XVIII-XIX CENTURY  
FURNITURE & DECORATIVE ARTS



**INLAID NEO-CLASSICAL KIDNEY SHAPED DESK**

**Dimensions: H: 30 in / 76 cm | W: 52 in / 132 cm | D: 27 in / 68.5 cm**

**8858**

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A Knee-hole Library Desk attributed to Edwards & Roberts  
Retailed by Druce & Co

Of kidney form constructed in a well patinated mahogany, extensively inlaid with specimen woods; rising from tapered spade end feet, of nine drawer form, all oak lined and lockable, fitted with quadrant mouldings; the central drawer over the knee-hole bearing the brass plaque, 'Druce & Co, Baker Street & Portman Square', and flanked by two banks of four drawers; inlaid to the sides and back with urns and paterae in the Neo-classical manner, and ribbands and garlands in both stained and specimen woods; the writing surface having a tooled Morocco leather inset, with a guard band of interlaced anthemions. The knee-hole houses an interior bookshelf.

**Literature:**

Edwards & Roberts

The firm of Edwards & Roberts was founded in 1845, and had premises at 21 Wardour Street, London. By 1892 they occupied more than a dozen buildings in Wardour Street, where they continued to trade until the end of the century.



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Known and feted as one of the leading London cabinet makers and retailers, they worked in a variety of styles, both modern and revivalist especially furniture in the Neo Classical Adam revival, as well as the French furniture of the ancien régime, and exhibiting a range of ability in their products, from 'very good to astonishingly good'. Their marquetry work, as in these examples, is of a quality that equals the creations of the French ébenistes of the eighteenth century.

The business involved making and retailing their own output, as well as adapting and restoring both English & Continental antique furniture, and many examples that bear their stamp or trade label have passed through our hands.