

AN INKWELL TABLE CLOCK BY THOMAS COLE

Dimensions: H: 10 in / 25.5 cm

9658

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An Unusual 'Inkwell' Table Clock
Attributed to Thomas Cole

Constructed from gilt brass, the novelty timepiece rising from a turned ebonised base inset with a concave brass tray engraved with geometric strapwork; a central socle supporting the inkwell, its exterior finely engraved in conforming manner, opening up to reveal a cut glass inkwell, its lid inset with an engraved silvered dial, with fleur de lys blued steel hands denoting the hours in Roman numerals and the minutes by way of a chapter ring; the movement with going barrel, lever escapement, and steel balance. Bearing a presentation inscription to James MacHenry dated 1883.
Circa 1860

The inventive design for this clock sits alongside a small number of other unusual clocks created by Thomas Cole. According to J.B. Hawkins, there was "no doubts that these clocks took many years to complete under constant supervision to ensure the incredibly high standard attained."