



**A VERY FINE KIDNEY DESK ATTRIBUTED TO
GILLOWS**

Dimensions: H: 30 in / 76 cm | W: 54 in / 136 cm | D: 28 in / 71 cm

9368



A Very Fine Kidney Desk

Attributed to [Gillows](#)

Constructed in a costly and precious [amboyna burl](#) with bois noir ci crossbanding interspersed with lozenge medallions and boxwood stringing, dressed with splendid gilt bronze; of kidney form, on shaped plinth of conforming design with egg-and-dart moulding, having an arrangement of nine drawers to the front, with open shelving to the reverse; the platform having an inset tooled leather, and an arcaded and pierced gilt bronze three-quarter gallery.

English, circa 1870

The Gillows Archives, held in the City of Westminster Library, shows this unique desk design from the 1850's onwards. Although the piece is unsigned, the construction and quality of the desk is typical of Gillows, due to the exceptional blending of materials and craftsmanship.

Literature:

Gillows of London and Lancaster was perhaps the greatest English furniture-making firm, thriving from the 18th century until it merged in 1900. Founded by Robert Gillow in 1730, his business earned a stellar reputation for exquisite craftsmanship and cutting-edge designs, particularly in crafting mahogany furniture. They expanded their influence by setting up showrooms in both Lancaster and London, attracting a diverse clientele that included the State, landed gentry, and the emerging middle class. Robert's legacy was carried on by his sons, Richard and Robert. Over the course of the 19th century, Gillows became England's biggest furniture manufacturer, leaving an enduring legacy with a staggering 20,000 preserved designs and a global footprint in royal collections and museums.