GALERIE LAMY
CHABOLLE



Kashmiri writing set, comprising a tray, a pen box, inkwells, a candlestick and bookends

Kashmir

1850-1880

Papier-mâché, painted and lacquered wood

Tray: 19.5 × 28.5 cm (7.75 × 11.25 in.) ; pen box: 7.5 × 26.5 × 10.5 cm (3 × 10.5 × 4.25 in.) ; inkwells: h. 5.5 cm (2.25 in.) ; candlestick: h. 15 cm (6 in.) ; bookends: 13.5 × 7 × 9.5 cm (5.25 × 2.75 × 3.75 in.), each



"Most of the crafts such as enameling and *papier-mâché* were introduced from abroad, but the Kashmiri artists were quick to adapt them to their familiar, native resources and tastes. […] Among the most commonly seen, distinct works of arts and crafts are furnishings of a wide variety, made either in wood or *papier-mâché* or a combination of both. Painted and varnished, they are decorated mostly in the conventional non-figural mode as already noted […]. While tables, trays, and candlesticks have survived in considerable numbers, less common are chairs.[1]"

Less common also the inkwells and bookends shown here. Together with the tray, the pen box and the more usual double-helix candlestick — one exemple of which is at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, they form a proper writing desk set in *papier-mâché* and lacquered wood, most certainly made in Kashmir in the second half of the nineteenth century for a Western clientele.

NOTES

1. Pratapaditya, 2007, p. 184

LITERATURE

See Pal Pratapaditya, *The Arts of Kashmir*, New York, 2007.









