

PATRICK JEFFERSON



Item A GIANT VICTORIAN SILVER-MOUNTED GLASS INKWELL BY LEUCHARS

Date Hallmarked for London, 1885, maker's mark WL for William Leuchars.

Provenance Private collection, London.

Dimensions Height 6 3/4" (17cm) Width 4 7/8" (12cm) Depth 4 7/8" (12cm)

Description Leuchars was established at 47 Piccadilly, London in 1794 by James Leuchars. In 1820, the business moved to 38 Piccadilly shortly before James Leuchars died in 1822. Lucy Leuchars, James' widow, continued the business under the name of L. Leuchars. In 1837, the same year as Queen Victoria came to the throne, the firm was awarded the Royal Warrant for their supply of dressing cases to the royal family. Expanding to 39 Piccadilly in 1841, the name had now changed to Lucy Leuchars & Son - William Leuchars. After Lucy's death in 1847, William gained sole responsibility for the business, exhibiting and winning prize medals for his dressing cases at the Great Exhibition of 1851, the International Exhibition of 1862, and a silver medal at the *International Exposition* of 1867 in Paris³. In 1870, William Leuchars along with his son, also called William, opened a further shop at 2 Rue de la Paix in Paris, under the name of Leuchars & Son. When William Sr died in 1871, William Jr took control of the business, later winning a gold medal for their dressing cases at the *International Exposition* of 1878 in Paris. In 1884, Leuchars purchased the firm of H.W and L. Dee, manufacturers of silver and silver-mounted glass articles, and moved the company workshop to 8 Sherwood Street, Golden Square, London. William Jr finally agreed to sell the business and the Sherwood Street manufactory, to Asprey in 1888. The firm continued to trade as Leuchars from 38 & 39 Piccadilly until 1902. The firm of Leuchars & Son, 38 Piccadilly, appears in *Dickens's Dictionary of London* by Charles Dickens' son.

Price £1,600

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Fig. 1



Fig.2



Fig.3