



## Frank Brangwyn. A Rare Desk Originally Designed for the 1931 Pollard Exhibition

Ref: PV003558

*Price on Application*

DESIGNER	Frank Brangwyn
PERIOD	Art Deco , 1930-1939
YEAR	1931
STYLE	Art Deco
ORIGIN	United Kingdom
MATERIALS	Sycamore
DIMENSIONS	H: 31.1 in (79 cm)   W: 42.91 in (109 cm)   D: 24.02 in (61 cm)
CONDITION	Good

### About this piece

#### Frank Brangwyn

**E. Pollard & Co.**, A rare desk originally designed for the *1931 Pollard Exhibition* where it can be seen in a room setting in the original photographs from 1931. See images. This desk was on display at the **Scarborough Museums Trust's** exhibition *Brangwyn 1867-1956: Man of the People*, in 2016.

Co-curated by Dr. Libby Horner, she focuses on prominent themes within the collection of 'the lives of man, at work, at rest and in times of distress'. Born in Bruges and raised in London, **Brangwyn** grew up in a bubble of creativity. His father was a renowned

architect, winner of a silver medal in the *Paris Exhibition*, and his two siblings thrived in the field of interior design out in the U.S.

**Brangwyn** is not the result of an extensive arts education but, in fact, a young man who, in the early stages of his artist life, was exposed to three immensely inspiring and engaging designers of the time—**A. H. Mackmurdo**, **William Morris**, and Siegfried Bing. Their discovery of **Brangwyn** back in 1882 led to collaborative and group work at the **Century Guild**, where shortly after he was taken under the wing of **Morris** to practice in his workshops at Queen Square on Flemish tapestries.

It didn't go unnoticed that there were two fundamental themes that echoed throughout this experiential learning: the value of drawing from nature, and hence the value of a work ethic. A notable stepping stone in **Brangwyn's** professional practice and platform to the public was the mural he was commissioned to execute at the age of 28 in 1895 at **Galleries L' Art Nouveau** in Paris, owned by supporter and mentor Bing. From this, a confident designer flourished.

His designs broadened and began materialising in a range of mediums, from textiles through to glass and jewellery, to furniture for floors and decorative pieces for walls. Only a year later, **Brangwyn** married a lady named Lucy Ray, who was to be his partner managing Temple Lodge, a Georgian house in Hammersmith, and later The Jointure House in Ditchling. During his travels through English fishing villages and communities, up until 1913, he was able to mature his collection of drawing material by experiencing the world in pieces: France, Italy, Morocco, and an array more.

By the end of **Brangwyn's** life, his extensive collection consisted of more than 20 mural commissions, 685 paintings, of which a further 265 are not dated, not forgetting etchings, lithographs, and wood engravings, exceeding 1,000.