

Missing the Latching Mechanism for a Victorian Campaign Writing Box

The latching device for the panel of this writing desk is missing. The latch should be behind the arrow in the image.



The panel is shown here rotated 90 degrees. The brass plate to the right of it is a catch for the missing panel-release mechanism (arrow).



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Below is the inkwell, panel and spring.



The arrow in the image below points to a 2mm diameter hole in the floor of the inkwell. The hole is circled by a chamfered relief depression about 10mm diameter and 0.025 mm deep. The drawer is shown here partially open. The hole is above the drawer. Is the hole for a short, flat-headed bolt and nut?



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The views below show the corner space occupied by the spring-release mechanism. The vertical, side wood piece near arrow is made of the same material as the rest of the box. Ink stains are from the inkwell area above. A 3mm space appears in this image as a horizontal dark line above the vertical wood piece.



Pressure on the floor of the inkwell permits a spring action of about 3 mm, which is to say 3 mm of vertical movement. That motion is stopped by the vertical wood piece below it, as show previously. I have read of spring-release mechanisms operated by depression of inkwells, but I do not know how they are designed. Confusing is the positon of the chamfered hole. Why is it above the drawer rather than above the space for the spring-release mechanism? Is it part of the latch adjustment or is it for something else?



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Below is an online image of the metal tip of a spring release mechanism.



This online image shows a hand depressing an inkwell floor.



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The next online image shows a spring and block mechanism used in a different application.



If you can help me with information about my missing latching mechanism, please email me at Gilbert Gia, ggiaggia@gmail.com.

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