



English Arts And Crafts Style Secretary-library, Circa 1910



2 500 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Oak

Width : 122

Height : 232

Depth : 43

Description

An elegant and finely crafted example of early 20th-century British design, this English Arts and Crafts secretary bookcase from the 1910s. It embodies the movement's devotion to honest materials, functional beauty, and meticulous hand-work. Its form is both architectural and intimate, combining a glazed upper bookcase with a drop-front writing desk and a bank of drawers, creating a single piece that unites display, storage, and workspace with quiet sophistication.

The upper cabinet features multi-paned glass doors that frame the shelves like a pair of small windows, a hallmark of Arts and Crafts design where craftsmanship and proportion were valued over ornament. The glasswork allows books,

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ceramics, or treasured objects to be displayed with clarity, while the crown moulding above adds a gentle sense of elevation. Below, the slant-front desk opens to reveal a thoughtfully arranged interior of pigeonholes and small drawers, each one shaped to hold letters, papers, and writing tools; an intimate workspace designed for daily rituals of correspondence and study.

The lower section, with its graduated drawers and original hardware, grounds the piece visually and provides generous storage. The light, warm tone of the wood highlights the natural grain, reflecting the Arts and Crafts belief that beauty lies in the inherent qualities of the material itself. Throughout the piece, the craftsmanship is evident in the joinery, the balanced proportions, and the subtle detailing that gives the bookcase its enduring charm.

This secretary bookcase stands as a testament to the ideals of the Arts and Crafts movement: simplicity, integrity, and the celebration of skilled workmanship. Its versatility makes it equally at home in a study, living room, or bedroom, where it brings both function and a sense of history. As an object, it offers not only practical use but also the quiet pleasure of living with a piece shaped by hand more than a century ago.