

Finch & C^o



A FINE ENGLISH RENAISSANCE CARVED LIMESTONE LINTEL WITH TRACES OF GILDING
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PROBABLY FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE

CIRCA 1580

SIZE: 34CM HIGH X 92CM WIDE X 17.5CM DEEP

LITERATURE

THE SKULL AND CROSS BONES AS A MEMENTO MORI: A SYMBOL OF DEATH AND MORTALITY WAS RARELY USED IN SCULPTURE BEFORE THE LATE 16TH CENTURY. THE SKULL AND CROSS BONES IS BOTH A REMINDER OF THE HUMILITY OF DEATH AND THAT WHATEVER ONE'S STATUS AND WEALTH IN LIFE EVERYONE MUST COME IN THE END TO THE SAME CONDITION. IT MUST BE REMEMBERED THAT DEATH WAS REGARDED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF LIFE, AS IN INSCRIPTION ON AN EARLY 16TH CENTURY BRASS DECLARES 'AS YE ME SEE IN SUCH DEGREE SO SHALL YE BE ANOTHER DAY'.

THE COTSWOLD LIMESTONE BELT WHICH CREATED THE GREAT WOOL WEALTH, AND SOME OF THE BEST ENGLISH PARISH CHURCHES, PROVIDED AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF HIGH QUALITY STONE AND ATTRACTED SOME OF THE BEST MASONS. THIS RARE ENGLISH RENAISSANCE EXAMPLE IS THEREFORE MOST PROBABLY FROM THIS COTSWOLD/GLOUCESTERSHIRE AREA.