

Finch & C^o



A RARE ENGLISH OAK BOARDED MURAL SPICE CUPBOARD
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MD 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: HEIGHT 45CM DEPTH 24CM WIDTH 24CM

LITERATURE

THIS OUTSTANDING PERIOD EXAMPLE OF ENGLISH VERNACULAR PAL WAS ILLUSTRATED BY VICTOR CHINNERY IN HIS DEFINITIVE WORK 'OAK FURNITURE: THE BRITISH TRADITION' PUBLISHED IN 1979.

THESE SMALL CUPBOARDS WERE USED FOR THE DRY STORAGE OF SALT AND SPICES; BOTH REGARDED AS ESSENTIAL INGREDIENTS IN 17TH CENTURY CUISINE. THEY WERE OFTEN HUNG ON THE WALL NEAR OR IN THE KITCHEN FIREPLACE IN ORDER TO KEEP THE CONTENTS SAFE FROM DAMP AND MILDEW. THIS ONE STILL RETAINS ITS ORIGINAL IRON HANGERS.

TO QUOTE CHINNERY 'THIS LITTLE CHEST MUST BE ONE OF THE 'PRETTIEST' PIECES OF OAK FURNITURE IN EXISTENCE' (PG331 FIG 3:295).

THE COLOUR AND CONDITION OF THIS CIRCA 1650 SPICE CUPBOARD IS EXCEPTIONAL AND THIS COMBINED WITH ITS DELICATE PIERCED FLORAL DECORATION AND DIMINUTIVE SIZE MAKE IT INTO A HIGHLY DESIRABLE WORK OF ENGLISH ART.