

A superb Henry VII/VIII carved oak figural panel, circa 1500-20

£12,500



REF: 4510

Height: 21.5 cm (8.5")

Width: 26.5 cm (10.4")

Description

Modelled as an archer taking aim at an owl perched high in a tree, the centre ground filled by a stylised plant, framed, overall height 30.2cm, width 34.6cm

As a nocturnal bird the owl historically symbolised darkness, evil and death. It is depicted here under attack by the righteous, or Holy Spirit, represented by the archer's bow and arrow; a metaphor for Christian light against the darkness of evil

A 13th century oak misericord in Exeter cathedral models Christ as a centaur using a bow and arrow to slay a beast. See also two of the 68 misericords at Beverley Minster, one depicting an archer and another a central tree of comparable style with pointed leaves and a broad trunk, with attendant deer.