

SA1056304

An Unusual Antique Treen Funeral Biscuit Stamp

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA1056304

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Description

This is quite a rarity, a hand carved C19th sycamore funeral biscuit stamp. It was used to decorate funeral biscuits or cakes. It measures approx 12cm w x 12cm h. Funeral biscuits are a Yorkshire Dales tradition along with many other regions in the North of England, with links back to the Arval bread. Arval bread was a type of bread provided at funerals, particularly in the North of England. No doubt it was different from region to region, as it has been described as a 'particular kind of loaf', 'a thin, light and sweet cake', a 'funeral loaf spiced with spiced with cinnamon, nutmeg, sugar, and raisins, and 'a coarse cake, composed of flour, water, yeast, currants, and some kind of spice; in form round, about eight inches in diameter, and the upper surface scored. It was provided not just as sustenance at the wake, but mourners were given it to take home, and it was also distributed to the poor. It was, probably, related to or derived from the earlier practice of "sin-eating", whereby the sins of the deceased were transferred to a person who, for a fee, consumed food & drink handed to him over the coffin. A wrapper found from 1823 contained biscuits eaten at a funeral i...

Seller Details

Opus Antiques

North Devon United Kingdom

Tel: 07941 285 532

International Tel: +44 7941 285 532

