

SA1229364

Early 17thc North Italian Cypress wood chest of superb original patina

Price

GBP 1,750

| USD \$2,368 | EUR 2,048

Item Reference: SA1229364**Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 50.8 cm (20.0")

Width = 127.5 cm (50.2")

Depth = 57 cm (22.4")

Description

An early 17th century (circa 1620) North Italian Cypress wood chest of superb original patina, possibly a marriage chest. This Cypress chest consists of a two plank top with applied moulding to the front edge with carved decoration. The top opening to reveal a good storage area with candle holder, the inside of the top also with painted or inked heart decoration, the Cypress wood (similar to cedar) known for being a natural repellent to insects such as moths so is ideal for clothes storage. This leads down to the front of the chest consisting of carved images of mythical beasts, possibly dragons, with heart symbol to the centre, the carved areas filled with black pitch (or bitumen), the chest also having a lock and working steel key. The chest having a dovetail construction to each corner, the sides with applied wooden handle supports, these possibly originally fitted with leather or rope handles. The Cypress chest tended to originate from the Northern regions of Italy often from Venice, Adige or Umbria in the 16th and early 17th centuries, this chest possibly a marriage chest due to the heart symbols and mirrored decoration to the front. This chest is in very g...

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