

SA456879

Mid C19th carved giltwood oval-framed overmantel mirror with unusual carved fern motif decoration.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA456879

Date of manufacture: 1850

Dimensions

Height = 100 cm (39.4")

Width = 140 cm (55.1")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

Mid C19th carved giltwood oval-framed overmantel mirror with unusual carved fern motif decoration . The central oval-framed plate with applied surmount and side-pieces carved decoration featuring "Hart's-Tongue" fern fronds. Original throughout with good clear original mirror plate and back-boards. The original gilding with a gently aged patina, which in places has subtly worn through to show the decorative and atmospheric red-pink gesso ground beneath . The "Hart's-Tongue" fern deriving it's name from the likeness of it's fronds in appearance ,to that of the tongue of an adult male red deer or hart . The leaf of the "Hart's-Tongue" fern was also used in folk medicine as a spleen tonic. During the mid to late C19th , 'ferneries' and botanical collections of ferns were highly-desirable and fashionable . 'Pteridomania' (or fern craze) was a term coined by Charles Kingsley, clergyman and naturalist , to describe the fervoured collecting of British and exotic species of fern which gripped the country during this period. It is likely this attractively designed mirror frame with its unusual and possibly unique fern decoration, was commissioned by such an aficionado , natur...

Internal Ref: ML 1702

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