

SA637973

Attributed to Dean
Wolstenholme, 1757-1837
Sportsmen with their Spaniels,
pheasant shooting in a Wooded
Clearing

Price

GBP 3,500

| USD \$4,736 | EUR 4,095

Item Reference: SA637973

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Dimensions

Height = 61 cm (24.0")

Width = 91 cm (35.8")

Depth = 2 cm (0.8")

Description

Attributed to Dean Wolstenholme, 1757-1837 Sportsmen with their Spaniels, pheasant shooting in a Wooded Clearing oil on canvas 24 x 36 in. (60.96 x 91.44 cm.) The most plausible theory as to how pheasants reached our shores is through import from France by Roman officers who bred them for the table. Although originally introduced by the Romans, the actual country of origin is still a much-debated topic. The most realistic answer is that pheasants were imported to Southern Europe from Asia. After this, the first recorded documentary evidence of the existence of pheasants is in the year 1059 in relation to an order of King Harold. Although mentioned, it is not thought that they were widely distributed at this stage and Normans passed laws to ensure they were protected. These laws allowed the pheasant population to increase significantly and by 1100, Henry I granted the Abbot of Amesbury the right to kill pheasants. It was not until practical hand-held firearms arrived in Britain around 1500 that shooting pheasant for sport really took off. Henry VIII is known to have enjoyed shooting and had a French priest appointed as a 'fesaunt breeder'. Since this time, pheasant shoo...

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