

A fine, early-17th century strongbox retaining its original paintwork

Sold



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REF: 10149

Height: 77 cm (30.3")

Width: 90 cm (35.4")

Depth: 49 cm (19.3")

Description

The top with eighteen panels reinforced with strap work, and bolts. A plain lockplate reveals the central keyhole. The key operates a mechanism on the interior of the lid throwing twelve bolts. Protected by an elaborate pierced and engraved, double-tier, metal lockplate engraved with mythical figures, amongst acanthus leaves with a boss in the centre. The hinges original. The interior is painted red, and retains the original lever supporting the lid. It has a small, fitted box with its original, working lock and key. The front with has eighteen panels reinforced with strap work and bolts. Twin hasp fittings. The false escutcheon is gilded and headed by an elaborate foliate mask. The sides have nine panels reinforced with strap work and bolts and original carrying handles. Retaining original painted vignettes of landscape, nautical and floral decoration on a green ground. On an 18th century, painted stand. Probably Augsburg, 1st quarter of the 17th century.

The painting on this piece has survived in excellent condition, and retains its naive charm and character. Documents and private papers are recorded as being kept in strong boxes, which were also used to safeguard other items of personal value. They serve very well as modern safes.