HOWGEGO
HISTORIC + MODERN

A museum quality, black, silvered, and gilded cabinet, Belonging to a singular group been made in the same London workshop circa 1620

Sold

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REF: 10794

Description

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The decoration is thought to be inspired by Near Eastern Moresque ornament on lacquer which was exported to England via Venice, rather than by Far Eastern lacquer, and is the earliest recorded exampleon English furniture.

Provenance : The descendants of GM Thomas Esq of Millcroft, Bitterley, Ludlow, Shropshire. G M Thomas had a well regarded collection of early furniture in the 1920's which included many rare pieces of early furniture of a similar calibre to this cabinet

Directly related to cabinets in the following collections :
• V&A museum W.9-1936, English circa1620
• Leeds Museums & Galleries; Temple Newsam, no.1971.00 34 dated c.1620
• National Gallery Victoria, Melbourne, Australia, V&A, W.37-1927
• Private Collection, shown at the Stuart Legacy Exhibition, Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama USA,
• Private Collection ex John Fardon Collection, Sold Christies South Kensington 06/07/1994 lot 337 and again CSK 01/05/1996, lot 300.
• Ballot Box dated 1619 made for the East India Company now in the collection of The Worshipful Company of Saddlers
• Twelve Wonders of the World, Set of roundels, England, 1600-1630, with the same painted decoration as found on the cabinet borders in white and gold, V&A Musuem W.30 to M-1912. The band of guilloche ornament, on the roundels is also found on the cabinets.

The pedimented upper section, has a lift-up top stained black with applied mouldings on the outside and retaining the original hinges bearing traces of gilding. Opening to reveal a large compartment retaining the original black staining which indicates that it may have been made to accommodate inner boxes. The inside lid is painted to resemble a mitred panel, (possible connection to the panelling at Bolsover Castle) with a large vignette showing a huge, plummed, long tailed bird beside a date palm tree in a leafy landscape witha hill in the background and drifting cloud in the centre. The four sections of the border simulate a mitredpanel with a motif that is repeated throughout the cabinet. It is painted in gold and silver in the form of ascrolling leafy stem with flowerheads inside each scroll. This border is found on all the cabinets.

The outside of this upper box retains its original escutcheon and working lock, surrounded by a painted border below which resembles an eye. This is found on the other cabinets that retain their original decoration and the roundels.

The front of the top below is decorated with two vignettes. The left hand side panel is painted with a date palm tree in the foreground of a leafy landscape with a windmill and a European building on the horizon (ref the windmill on the panelling at Bolsover Castle) in leafy landscapes with stylised date palm trees. The vignette opposite is painted with two stylised date palm trees and a European building, probably a church, on the horizon.

The border decoration is a simple scrolling, feathery, leaf motif, again, giving the apprearance of mitred panelling.

The sides are stained black oak.

The front and sides of the main body of the cabinet also are also stained black oak. This plain blac...

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