

19TH CENTURY SWISS BLACK FOREST CARVED WALNUT AND ETCHED CRYSTAL CENTERPIECE

$1,500

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A finely carved walnut base depicting an alpine woodland scene gives this antique Black Forest centerpiece its distinctive character. Crafted in Switzerland circa 1870, the decorative composition combines detailed naturalistic wood carving with a delicately etched crystal bowl, reflecting the traditional craftsmanship of the Black Forest style popular throughout the late 19th century.

The sculptural base features two mountain goats resting and grazing among rocky outcroppings, fallen leaves, and woodland vegetation. Each animal is meticulously hand carved, with expressive faces, textured coats, and finely defined horns. Rising from the center, a rustic tree trunk supports an arrangement of carved branches and oak leaves that cradle the removable crystal bowl.

The shallow, clear crystal bowl features a graceful scalloped rim and intricate etched decoration depicting ferns, flowers, and leafy foliage. The delicate botanical motifs complement the woodland subject of the walnut base, creating a harmonious combination of glass and wood. The contrast between the transparent crystal and the warm, richly patinated walnut further enhances the decorative appeal of the piece.

Black Forest carvings became particularly fashionable during the 19th century, especially in Switzerland, where skilled artisans produced elaborate decorative objects inspired by alpine wildlife and nature. Such pieces were prized for their detailed craftsmanship and were often acquired as souvenirs by wealthy European travelers.

The antique centerpiece is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use, retaining a rich walnut patina and finely preserved carved details. Ideal for displaying on a dining table, console, buffet, or in a traditional hunting lodge or mountain retreat, this unusual composition is both functional and sculptural.

Dimensions: 9.75" W x 6" D x 11" H

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