



MID-19TH CENTURY FRENCH BLACK FOREST BLEACHED OAK ROYAL COAT OF ARMS MIRROR

\$4,200

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Boldly sculptural and richly detailed, this antique heraldic mirror is a striking example of Black Forest-style carving. Crafted in France circa 1860, the substantial wall piece is hand-carved from solid oak and depicts the British Royal Coat of Arms, with the crowned lion of England and unicorn of Scotland flanking a central circular frame.

The two heraldic animals are dramatically modeled in high relief, with expressive faces, flowing manes, and finely carved anatomical details. Above, an elaborate royal crown rises among deeply carved scrolling acanthus leaves, while the center is encircled by the inscription "Honi Soit Qui Mal Y Pense," the motto of the Order of the Garter. Below, scrolling banners bear "Dieu et Mon Droit," the traditional motto of the British monarch.

Executed in the Black Forest taste, the carving is particularly impressive for its depth and openwork construction. Deeply undercut foliage, flowers, tassels, scrolls, and architectural flourishes create a highly dimensional composition characteristic of the naturalistic and exuberant carving associated with the style.

The oak has been bleached to a soft, pale finish and retains a light patina, allowing the shadows and depth of the carving to remain beautifully defined. A round mirror plate was added at a later date within the original central opening, adapting the carved heraldic panel for use as a decorative wall mirror.

An unusual combination of French craftsmanship, British heraldry, and Black Forest influence, this antique mirror would make a commanding focal point above a mantel, console, or chest, or in a library, study, entry hall, or office. The piece is in excellent condition commensurate with age and use and adorns a beautiful bleached oak finish with a rich light patina.

Dimensions: 27" W x 3.5" D x 30.5" H