



A 'BLACK FOREST' BEAR JARDINIÈRE

Dimensions: H: 58.5 in / 148 cm | Dia: 16 in / 40 cm

10225



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Of substantial size and skilfully carved from Lindenwood, the jardinière modelled on a circular rocky outcrop, from which emerges a tree trunk flanked by a bear standing on his hind feet as he clutches the tree, his realistic glass inset eyes gazing up at the plantholder above his head surrounded by oak leaves and acorns.

Swiss, circa 1880

Brienz, Bernese Oberland, Switzerland

Black Forest carving from Brienz, in the Bernese Oberland, Switzerland, emerged in the early 19th century as a winter occupation for local craftsmen and quickly gained popularity among those visiting the Swiss Alps. Known for its intricate, lifelike depictions of alpine wildlife and flora, often incorporated into functional items, the craft reached its zenith in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Brienz became renowned as a woodcarving center, with its works exported globally and showcased at international exhibitions. At its height, some 600 carvers were active in Brienz, accounting for nearly a quarter of the population. The tradition influenced similar styles elsewhere, although the carvings from Brienz remain supreme.

Blackman, Peter F. *Black Forest Woodcarvings: The History of Swiss Brienzerware*. Atglen, Pa: Schiffer Pub, 2009, p.157, showing a closely related example by Ed Binder & Co.