



A BLACK FOREST CARVING OF A BEAR

Dimensions: H: 10 in / 25 cm | W: 17 in / 43 cm | D: 5.5 in / 14 cm

10355



A Black Forest Carving of a Bear

Made from solid lindenwood, the animal naturalistically carved, and with patinated highlights and glass eyes.

Brienz, Circa 1890

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.

Literature:

Arenski, Jay, Simon Daniels, and Michael Daniels. Swiss Carvings: The Art of the "Black Forest," 1820-1940. Woodbridge, Suffolk, UK: Antique Collectors' Club, 2005; for similar examples.