



A good, rare and documented Charles II backstool, North Cheshire/Manchester area, circa 1670

£2,850



Houlston UK Ltd

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REF: 5025

Height: 107 cm (42.1")

Width: 48 cm (18.9")

Depth: 45 cm (17.7")

Description

The back panel flat-carved with symmetrical curved-patterns around a filled roundel, the scroll-shaped and pierced cresting rail carved with a pair of lozenges centred by a circle, together with hooked-beak motifs and surmounted by a small heart, the boarded seat above single flat run-moulded seat rails, raised on columnar-turned front legs, joined by plain stretchers all round

A unique feature of this backstool's design appears to be the simple heart carved to the centre of the cresting. Although the heart is generally not a scarce motif, in the genre of backstools I have not come across it used on another example

Provenance: Michael Gray collection, Wiltshire. Sold Bonhams, London, March 2018 (£4,750), the highest price achieved for a single Charles II backstool at a Bonhams auction (...and I auctioned hundreds)

This backstool is illustrated in Victor Chinnery, 'Oak Furniture: The British Tradition' (2016), p. 440, fig. 4:157