A section of 16th century needlework border, Italian, circa 1550-1600

£1,550



REF: 3048

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Height: 33.3 cm (13.1")

Width: 67.9 cm (26.7")

Description

Worked in brown and blue silk threads on a fine linen ground, depicting a huntsman with hounds and terriers surrounded by a variety of animals, including rabbits, deer, ducks, turkey, squirrels, hawks and elephants, mounted on a 19th century linen, edged with a 17th century Italian silk and linen woven braid, museum glazed, framed, dimensions of panel only: height 14cm, width 46.5cm

As can be seen in the images, the right half of this panel is largely missing embroidered outlines to the figures with some traces remaining of a darker silk thread, indicating it was probably a finished piece which has sustained losses rather than a piece which remained unfinished in the first place

It is believed turkeys were first introduced to Europe as early as 1500, whilst elephants were known to have been kept in Northern Europe from Roman times onwards. Typically, it appears the embroiderer of this piece had not physically seen an elephant, or indeed an accurate depiction of one

For an identical needlework border worked in red silk see the V&A Museum, London acc. no. CIRC.845-1924. The museum has another related needlework, worked in similar colours, attributed to Sicily, acc. CIRC.353-1930

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