



Edward Gardiner, an English Cotswold School Oak Ladder Back Rush Seat Armchair

Ref: NPV000272

£1,400

MAKER	Edward Gardiner
PERIOD	Arts & Crafts Movement , 1900-1909
YEAR	1900
STYLE	Cotswold School
ORIGIN	United Kingdom
MATERIALS	Oak, Rush
DIMENSIONS	H: 16 in (40.64 cm) W: 24 in (60.96 cm) D: 21 in (53.34 cm)
CONDITION	Good

About this piece

Edward Gardiner and Chair Making

Edward Gardiner was encouraged to take up chair making by **Ernest Gimson**, who in turn was encouraged by **Philip Clissett**. Clissett had been making traditional ladder back chairs from as early as 1838, those skills passed down to him. Clissett became a master craftsman of his own generation.

He was discovered by **Ernest Gimson**, who spent a few weeks with Clissett in c. 1890 to learn the art of chair making, which Gimson in turn passed onto **Edward Gardiner**, encouraging him from around 1904. Gardiner then developed his own art and style of chair making in the traditional way.

Always handmade, usually from Ash, making them quite tactile, extremely strong and durable, yet very lightweight and therefore easy to move around. This traditional way that English ladderbacks were made is where the origins of Shaker furniture-making tradition came from.

Ann Lee and her husband Abraham Stanley, the very first 'Shaker Quakers' to emigrate from the U.K. to Colonial America in 1774, took with them the essence of what Clissett and his forefathers had been refining for centuries before. Clissett was once described by **Alfred Powell** as resembling, "what the old aristocratic poor used to be."