



Heals & Son – Anglo-Japanese Oak Wall Shelf with Fretwork, Aesthetic Movement

Ref: PV004212

£3,200

MAKER	Heal's
PERIOD	Aesthetic Movement
YEAR	1880
STYLE	Anglo-Japanese
ORIGIN	United Kingdom
MATERIALS	Walnut
DIMENSIONS	H: 33.57 in (85.26 cm) W: 24.61 in (62.5 cm) D: 6.89 in (17.5 cm)
CONDITION	Good

About this piece

By Heals and Son, an **oak wall shelf** aligned to the *Aesthetic Movement* (1860–1890) in the Anglo-Japanese mode, **c.1880**. Designed with a stepped upper gallery supported by open sides and vertical divisions, above a lower tier with shaped brackets. The interplay of geometric fretwork, voids, and structure embodies the disciplined Anglo-Japanese aesthetic of late nineteenth-century London cabinet work.

Heals and Son were among the leading furnishing houses to advance this design language, combining functional structure with visual restraint and Japanese-inspired symmetry. Their Anglo-Japanese range reflected the firm's reformist ethos within the *Aesthetic Movement* (1860–1890), integrating ornament and form into a unified expression of British vernacular modernism.

The design corresponds to wall shelves illustrated in *The Pictorial Dictionary of British 19th Century Furniture Design*, Heal, 1884, recorded as Heal examples of comparable composition. The final images include reference to this illustration, alongside a related Heals and Son example with similar fretwork and asymmetrical division, available separately [here](#).

Together, these examples demonstrate the evolution of Heals and Son's Anglo-Japanese vocabulary, from dark ebonised finishes to lighter oak variations that balance structure and surface with equal refinement.