425 Peachtree Hills NE, No. 18 | Atlanta, GA 30305 | 404.351.9433 | info@englishaccentantiques.com

18TH CENTURY ENGLISH OAK ARMCHAIR WITH CARVED BACK AND INSCRIPTION



$4,995

This rare English armchair is crafted in solid oak and dates to the 18th century, exhibiting the robust construction and deeply carved ornament typical of provincial English furniture of the period. The chair features a strong rectilinear frame with turned legs and stretchers, a plank seat, and shaped arms terminating in a well-worn patina from long use.

The tall back is centered by a deeply carved panel with foliate and heraldic-style motifs, framed by geometric carving and raised moldings. The carving is expressive rather than academic, consistent with vernacular workmanship rather than later revival production, and contributes to the chair's powerful, almost architectural presence.

Of particular interest is the period inscription carved into the reverse of the back panel. The text states that the chair was made from an old carved pew taken from the church in which Shakespeare is buried, "Stratford in Avon." The spelling and phrasing are characteristic of 18th-century usage, when variations such as "Stratford in Avon" and "Shakespear" were common and orthography was not yet standardized. While the inscription should be understood as historical tradition rather than documented proof, it reflects the strong antiquarian and devotional interest in Shakespeare during the Georgian period.

With its substantial proportions, symbolic carving, and evocative provenance, this chair would have functioned as a ceremonial or status seat rather than everyday household furniture. It remains a striking object suited to a library, hall, or study, appealing equally to collectors of early English furniture and those drawn to historically resonant pieces.

Height: 40.25 in (102.24 cm)

Width: 21.25 in (53.98 cm)

Depth: 22.5 in (57.15 cm)

Seat Height: 19 in (48.26 cm)

425 Peachtree Hills NE, No. 18 | Atlanta, GA 30305 | 404.351.9433 | info@englishaccentantiques.com

SKU: A 6548