



Antique Longbow By Muir
Peter Muir

£700



REF: 31200

Height: 185.35 cm (73")

Description

Vintage Peter Muir Yew Wood Longbow.

A very good archery long bow, produced by Peter Muir, the Scottish bowyer (bow-maker) from Edinburgh. The bow is fitted with two horn nocks, a mother - of - pearl arrow plate (sometimes called an Arrow Pass) and a handle covering of green velvet. Just above the grip is the makers name 'Muir Edinburgh' and the number 56, indicating the draw weight of this bow in lbs. A nice self-bow, most probably Continental yew, as Muir was well known for choosing his wood from the Continent as it was better quality. Bow in good original condition.

The length measurement is between the grooves on the nocks of the bow.

Length. 70"

Weight. 56

Grip. Green Velvet, whipping

Wood. Yew

The longbow came to prominence in the late Medieval period due to the success of the longbow within the military. Bowyers flocked to the City of London aiming to gain work that was increasingly widely available, the reason for this increase in demand can be attributed to success in the battles. Mainly Crecy (1346), Poitiers (1356) and Agincourt (1415), which were accredited to the talent of the English bowmen. In 1363 practising archery was made a compulsory activity for men, and the trade grew further. A system of apprenticeships was introduced for the craft of bowyers, whereby the apprentice was bound to the trade for seven years.

Target archery became popular during the Victorian period (1837-1901), when recreational archery was at its height of popularity. The heydays of archery as a social recreation in the 19th century saw four stand out bow-makers. Of course there were others who, principally makers of umbrellas and fishing tackle etc., added bowery to their repertoires with varying degrees of success; but it was Thomas Waring, Thomas Aldred, James Buchanan and Peter Muir who many turned to for quality and quantity. While Waring, Aldred and Buchanan serviced the English clubs and societies, in Scotland Muir reigned supreme.