



ANTIQUE TAXIDERMY LEOPARD SKIN RUG, MOUNTED, VAN INGEN.

Sold



## Description

ANTIQUA TAXIDERMIA LEOPARD SKIN RUG, MOUNTED, VAN INGEN.

A well prepared leopard skin rug by Van Ingen & Van Ingen. The rug is with the typical Van Ingen 'snarling' mounted head with material backing and black felt edging. On the rear is the painted No. 43307 and the Van Ingen paper trade label. The leopard is in excellent original condition and with claws. The rug measures from head to tail 96 inches and the width at the hind legs is 58 inches.

Van Ingen and Van Ingen were taxidermists in Mysore, India. They were founded in the 1890's by Eugene Van Ingen and were renowned for their tiger and leopard trophy mounts. Van Ingen and Van Ingen produced many head mounts, full mounts, flat animal rugs and full rug mounts with heads, it is said their factory processed more than 43,000 trophies in less than 90 years of business. They were one of the largest taxidermy businesses in the world employing in its heyday over 100 workers, processing many types of animals, not just tigers and leopards, but bears, lions, rhinos and zebras etc. Van Ingen were known for their quality, fine workmanship and attention to detail, that is why they can boast Maharajas of India and international nobility amongst their clientele. Van Ingen constructed mannequins and moulds of all sizes so they could produce mounts of consistent quality for a variety of poses from head mounts to full life size mounts. One of their trademarks was the 'snarling' open mouth expression of the big cats, one that used special head moulds with specific built in grooves around the nose area.

In the late 60's the work began to decline and the company finally closed in 1999.

For more information there is a book, Van Ingen & Van Ingen, Artists in Taxidermy, Mysore (Morris, 2006).