

Erzgebirger toy castle

£145



Description

A fun Erzgebirgische Holzkunst box wood decorated toy block castle, circa 1910.

Erzgebirgische Holzkunst is the traditional wooden folk art of Germany's Erzgebirge, or Ore Mountains, a region renowned for skilled carving and toy making. The craft flourished from the 18th and 19th centuries as declining mining communities turned increasingly to woodworking for their livelihoods.

Characteristic pieces include nutcrackers, smoking men, Christmas pyramids, candle arches, angels, miners and delicately turned miniature figures. Many are made from local spruce, beech and limewood, then carved, turned and hand-painted.

Closely associated with Christmas, Erzgebirge woodcraft remains a thriving regional tradition, with historic workshops continuing to produce highly collectible pieces using techniques passed down through generations.