Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Tudor Hand-Forged Iron Meat Spike, Circa 1550

£95

Emmett & White Ltd
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REF: 4627

Height: 55 cm (21.7")

Width: 1.5 cm (0.6")

Description

A rare Tudor hand-forged iron meat spike, dating to circa 1550. Made for use in the kitchen or at the hearth, this functional object offers a direct connection to the practical realities of 16th-century domestic life, when food was prepared over open fires and essential implements were made by hand to withstand constant use.

Forged from a single length of iron, the spike has a powerful, purposeful form, designed to pierce and secure joints of meat during roasting, handling, or cooking. Its hand-worked surface retains the irregularity and strength of early ironwork, with subtle variations in the metal recording the skill of the blacksmith who made it. Objects of this type were everyday tools, but surviving examples are now prized for their sculptural simplicity and tangible association with Tudor kitchens.

During the reign of the Tudors, large households, inns, and country estates depended on open-hearth cooking, where iron implements were indispensable. A meat spike such as this would have been part of the working equipment of a busy kitchen, used alongside spits, hooks, fire dogs, and cooking pots. Its uncompromising form reflects an age in which utility, durability, and craftsmanship were inseparable.

Now presented as a decorative object in its own right, this evocative survivor would make a compelling addition to a collection of early domestic metalwork, antique culinary tools, or Tudor-period artefacts. It would display particularly well in a country-house kitchen, fireplace setting, library, or interior with a strong historical character.

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