



Guild of Handicraft, Attributed – Arts & Crafts Wrought Iron Fire Shovel

Ref: PV004659

£2,200

MAKER	Guild of Handicraft
PERIOD	Arts & Crafts Movement , 1900-1909
YEAR	1905
STYLE	Arts and Crafts
ORIGIN	United Kingdom
MATERIALS	Wrought Iron
DIMENSIONS	H: 35.63 in (90.5 cm) W: 6.5 in (16.5 cm) D: 3.54 in (9 cm)
CONDITION	Good

About this piece

A **wrought iron fire shovel**, attributed to the *Guild of Handicraft*, with a thistle finial, interwoven handle of forged flame motifs, and decorative riveted joint to the pan.

This **Arts & Crafts fire shovel** is attributed to the *Guild of Handicraft*, founded by C. R. Ashbee in 1888, whose blacksmiths advanced the expressive potential of wrought iron through both structure and ornament. Forged around **c.1905**, the shovel exemplifies the workshop's distinctive combination of symbolism and disciplined craft.

The handle terminates in a finely modelled **thistle finial**, beneath which an open fretwork section depicts interlacing **flame-like tendrils**, enclosing a central **twisted rod**. This structural and decorative interplay captures the Guild's belief in the visible expression of labour within design. The main shaft, of hammered steel, is detailed with a rat-tail scroll for hanging and a twisted mid-section that transitions into the shovel head.

The broad scoop is joined with a curling strap, **cold-riveted** through the plate, a method typical of early twentieth-century hand forging. The entire piece demonstrates both strength and aesthetic restraint, balancing symbolism with purpose, a hallmark of *Guild of Handicraft* production.