



## Heals & Son – Anglo-Japanese Oak Wall Shelf with Fretwork, Aesthetic Movement

Ref: PV004212

£3,200

|            |                                                                       |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MAKER      | Heal's                                                                |
| PERIOD     | Aesthetic Movement                                                    |
| YEAR       | 1880                                                                  |
| STYLE      | Anglo-Japanese                                                        |
| ORIGIN     | United Kingdom                                                        |
| MATERIALS  | Walnut                                                                |
| DIMENSIONS | H: 33.57 in (85.26 cm)   W: 24.61 in (62.5 cm)   D: 6.89 in (17.5 cm) |
| CONDITION  | Good                                                                  |

### About this piece

By Heals and Son, an **oak wall shelf** aligned to the *Aesthetic Movement* (1860–1890) in the Anglo-Japanese mode, **c.1880**. Designed with a stepped upper gallery supported by open sides and vertical divisions, above a lower tier with shaped brackets. The interplay of geometric fretwork, voids, and structure embodies the disciplined Anglo-Japanese aesthetic of late nineteenth-century London cabinet work.

Heals and Son were among the leading furnishing houses to advance this design language, combining functional structure with visual restraint and Japanese-inspired symmetry. Their Anglo-Japanese range reflected the firm's reformist ethos within the *Aesthetic Movement* (1860–1890), integrating ornament and form into a unified expression of British vernacular modernism.

The design corresponds to wall shelves illustrated in *The Pictorial Dictionary of British 19th Century Furniture Design*, Heal, 1884, recorded as Heal examples of comparable composition. The final images include reference to this illustration, alongside a related Heals and Son example with similar fretwork and asymmetrical division, available separately [here](#).

Together, these examples demonstrate the evolution of Heals and Son's Anglo-Japanese vocabulary, from dark ebonised finishes to lighter oak variations that balance structure and surface with equal refinement.