



# PERIOD OAK ANTIQUES

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**ONE OF ENGLANDS FINEST. THE MAGNIFICENT 27ft 6" LONG , RARE AND IMPORTANT RUFFORD ABBEY OAK REFECTORY TABLE. CIRCA 1660.**

THIS MAGNIFICENT AND IMPORTANT ENGLISH REFECTORY TABLE STANDS AT 27 FEET 6" IN LENGTH X 34" WIDE X 35" HIGH. MADE FROM ENGLISH OAK MOST PROBABLY SOURCED IN THE LOCAL SHERWOOD FOREST. IT HAS TEN BEAUTIFULLY TURNED BALUSTER LEGS UNITED BY STRETCHERS. THE TOP CONSISTS OF THREE LARGE ALMOST 2" THICK PLANKS IN TWO SECTIONS. THIS MONUMENTAL TABLE WAS INGENUOUSLY MADE SO THAT THE BASE CAN BE DISMANTLED INTO TWO PIECES BY THE SIMPLE PROCEDURE OF REMOVING EIGHT PEGS FOR TRANSPORTATION.



THE 12TH CENTURY CISTERCIAN ABBEY SITS IN THE HEART OF SHERWOOD FOREST, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE.

RUFFORD ABBEY- Rufford Abbey was founded in 1146 by Gilbert de Gaunt, Earl of Lincoln, as the Cistercian abbey of St Mary the Virgin. It was suppressed in 1536. The whole estate was quickly acquired by George Talbot, 4th Earl of Shrewsbury. The conversion of the west range of monastic buildings into a house (1560-90) was undertaken by the sixth earl, who was the fourth and final husband of the indomitable Bess of Hardwick, from whom he was then bitterly estranged. In 1610, a new projecting wing was added to the northern end of this range. The estate was inherited in 1626 by Mary Talbot, sister of the 7th and 8th

Earls of Shrewsbury, and it passed to her husband, George Savile. In 1679, the Savile family constructed a new north wing on the site of the abbey church, containing reception rooms and a long gallery. They also built the large stable block to the right of the house. The surviving roofed southern service wing (currently used as offices) was also added by the Saviles in the 17th century. In 1938, the 3rd Baron Savile inherited the Rufford estate as a minor, but his trustees split it into lots and sold it off.

PROVENANCE- At Rufford Abbey in 1938, and sold by Knight, Frank & Rutley in conjunction with Christie, Mason etc. 11 - 22 October 1938.

Described in Country Life as a 'noble refectory table 26ft long' (Country Life, Vol. LXXXIV, No. 2173, 10th September 1938, p. 244).

Described in a report of the result of the sale as 'a late 17th century English oak refectory table, on ten baluster legs, joined by plain stretcher foot-rails £126' (Connoisseur Vol. 10, 1938).

- At Thame Park by 1957, where illustrated in Country Life, Vol. CXXII, No. 3176, and described (p.1151) as from Rufford Abbey.

STOCK NO 1820.

Price on Application

**Dimensions:**

**Height: 35 inches (88.9 cms)**

**Width: 34 inches (86.4 cms)**

**Length: 330 inches (838.2 cms)**

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