

# Black Forest Carved Mantel Clock with Stag Hunt Scene

✓ Fully Researched



## Identification

high confidence

Era / Period  
c. 1870-1900

Style  
Black Forest / Swiss-German

Materials  
Carved linden wood, clock movement  
(brass/steel)

Maker / Artist  
Unknown Swiss or German Black Forest  
workshop

Initial Estimate  
**\$3,000 — \$8,000**

Monumental Black Forest carved clock featuring a dramatic stag hunt scene with two deer in combat atop a rocky outcrop surrounded by elaborate carved foliage, flowers, and woodland elements. The deeply carved linden wood and ambitious scale are hallmarks of the finest Black Forest carving workshops of the late 19th century. Clock face is visible in the center. Condition appears very good with rich patina. High-quality examples of this scale and subject matter command strong prices at auction.

## Valuation & Research

Low	Likely	High
<b>\$3,500</b>	<b>\$5,500</b>	<b>\$9,000</b>

This is an exceptional example of Black Forest carved clockwork. The monumental scale, elaborate stag hunt scene with two deer in combat, and deeply carved linden wood foliage place this among the finest examples of the genre. Comparable clocks at Fontaines Auction have been estimated at \$4,000-\$6,000. The condition appears very good with rich, original patina. The subject matter (hunting scenes with stags) is the most desirable motif in Black Forest carving. The clock movement adds functional value. Pieces of this scale and quality from reputable Black Forest workshops of the 1870-1900 period are increasingly scarce.

### Comparable Sales

Black Forest stag mantle clock, Fontaines Auction [Fontaines Auction](#) **\$4,000-\$6,000 estimate**

Black Forest carved stag mantel clock, 19th c., Brunk Auctions Feb 2025 [Brunk Auctions](#) **Sold at auction (hammer price not published)**

Massive Black Forest carved cuckoo clock, 123cm, Jackson Auction July 2024 [Invaluable.com](#) **Sold at auction**

Black Forest carved hunt motif wall clock, Brunk Auctions March 2025 [Brunk Auctions](#) **Sold at auction**

### Recommendations

This is one of the most valuable pieces in the collection. Recommend professional appraisal by a specialist in European decorative arts. The clock movement should be inspected by a horologist to determine if it is functional and original. Consider consignment to a major auction house (Bonhams, Brunk, or a European house) for maximum exposure. Insure at replacement value of \$8,000-\$10,000. Handle with extreme care — the carved elements are fragile.

## History & Context

### History

Black Forest wood carving reached its zenith in the latter half of the 19th century in the Schwarzwald region of southwestern Germany and neighboring Swiss cantons. Workshops in towns like Brienz, Triberg, and surrounding villages produced elaborately carved clocks, furniture, and decorative objects depicting wildlife, hunting scenes, and woodland motifs. The stag hunt was among the most prestigious subjects, requiring master carvers to render complex multi-figure compositions. Linden wood (basswood) was the preferred medium for its fine grain and workability. These pieces were exported worldwide and became prized possessions in Victorian and Edwardian interiors.

### Maker

The specific workshop has not been identified, but the quality of carving — particularly the naturalistic rendering of the deer, the deeply undercut foliage, and the ambitious scale — suggests a leading Black Forest workshop. Many of the finest pieces were produced in the Brienz area of Switzerland or the Triberg/Furtwangen area of Germany. The clock movement may bear a maker name that could help attribute the piece.

### Market Context

The market for high-quality Black Forest carvings remains strong, particularly for large-scale pieces with hunting and wildlife subjects. Smaller or simpler examples have softened in value, but monumental pieces with elaborate figural compositions continue to attract collectors of decorative arts, hunting memorabilia, and European antiques. The best pieces are now being recognized as significant examples of 19th-century craftsmanship.

### Sources

Fontaines Auction - Black Forest Stag Mantle Clock

Brunk Auctions - Black Forest Carved Stag Mantel Clock

1stDibs - Hunt Clocks

Antiques & Uncommon Treasure - Black Forest Carvings

AI-assisted valuations are estimates based on research and comparable sales. They are not certified appraisals. Consult a qualified appraiser for insurance or sale purposes.