

SA1055031

CHINESE EMBROIDERED SILK OFFICIAL'S RANK BADGE - MANDARIN DUCK - QUING DYNASTY (1644 - 1911)

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1055031****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 32 cm (12.6")

Width = 32 cm (12.6")

Depth = 3 cm (1.2")

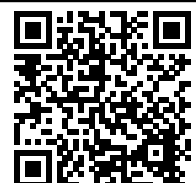
Description

This embroidered panel denotes the 7th Official's rank badge of a Mandarin Duck, and is wrought in blues, creams and golds on a navy blue ground. Rank Badges would be worn on the front and back of the robes of exceptional scholars. From the moment a son was born he would be coached in the hope that he might attain such an honour, and in turn bring wealth and prosperity to his family. The badge rank system was split between military denoted by animals, and civil which was marked with birds. A badge featuring a bird identified the wearer as a civil official who would sit to the Emperors left at functions - so the birds are facing right towards him! These badges were incredibly hard to win with only one in a thousand people actually being successful. As you might imagine, something so hard worked for and highly prized, the badges are of the most beautiful quality - this has led to them becoming extremely collectable. In the centre we can see the Mandarin Duck itself - perched atop a rock in the swirling sea, gazing up towards the sun and the Emperor. All around the bird are clouds, bats and flowers, whilst below the ocean swells with frothy waves dotted with knot-work and...

Seller Details

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