

SA1092628

Antique Porcelain Figurine of the God of Wisdom, Satsuma, Japan, Edo period (1603-1868)

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1092628****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Description

A rare porcelain figurine of Fukurokuju, one of the Seven Gods of Happiness and the deity of longevity, wisdom, and health. Fukurokuju is depicted with a wanderer's staff over his shoulder, from which hangs a magical golden scroll. According to tradition, this scroll contains the recipe for longevity and holds the lifespan information of every person. The figurine features richly decorated attire, meticulously hand-painted with intricate patterns that showcase the high level of craftsmanship involved. Fukurokuju is known as the god of wisdom, symbolized by his elongated head, as well as health and happiness. He is also regarded as the patron saint of chess players. Typically portrayed as a reclusive monk, his high, elongated forehead, long grey beard, and extended earlobes are masterfully rendered in this piece. This figurine is an exquisite example of Satsuma craftsmanship, featuring detailed hand modeling, gilding, and relief polychrome painting. Satsuma ware originated in Japan during the seventeenth century in the southern region of Kyushu, under the control of the Shimazu clan (Satsuma-han, now known as Kagoshima and surrounding areas). Its history dates back to arou...

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