

SA1154976

Rare Chinese Antique (mid-19thC) Large Buddhist Ceremonial Bamboo Root Ruyi (Sceptre)

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1154976****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 12 cm (4.7")

Width = 45 cm (17.7")

Depth = 10 cm (3.9")

Description

Superb Chinese antique (mid-19thC) Buddhist ceremonial gnarled bamboo root ruyi (sceptre), intricately carved with ganoderma lucidum (fungi) and a pair of foo dogs (stylised lions), it's head is fashioned like a fist, cloud, or lingzhi (ling chih) mushroom or fungi. A classic example of the Chinese scholar's love of natural forms. Ca. 45cm long x 10cm deep x 12cm high, weight 450g. Excellent original condition with lovely patina. A rare and beautiful large ruyi. The Lingzhi fungus has been used in traditional Chinese and Japanese medicine for centuries to promote health and longevity. It's also known as the 'mushroom of immortality' and is believed to treat the heart, reduce stress and inflammation, and bring good luck. It's extremely rare in its natural form, with only two or three out of 10,000 aged trees having lingzhi growth. The form of scepter called ruyi (meaning 'as desired' or 'as you wish') is an ancient auspicious symbol that became the mark of a cultivated gentleman. It may have originated as a weapon or as a Buddhist implement, but old paintings often depict scholars holding ruyi scepters while engaged in conversation. By the Ming period those done in org...

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