

SA1176476

Early Chinese Temple Figure of a Civil Official, Gilt & Polychrome Wood, South China c.1650 (Late Ming / Early Qing)

Price

GBP 4,800

| USD \$6,495 | EUR 5,616

Item Reference: SA1176476**Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 43 cm (16.9")

Width = 23 cm (9.1")

Depth = 21 cm (8.3")

Description

A powerful and authentic 17th-century Chinese temple sculpture depicting a seated civil official (Wen Caishen or Chenghuang type), retaining its original stepped plinth. Finely carved in the round, with gold leaf over red bole, incised black floral diaper, and characteristic red lacquer drops. The yoke-back throne rests above a cloud-mask apron and paired shishi guardians clutching brocade balls. The stepped base, assembled from joined end-grain billets, represents an early construction method used in southern workshops to stabilise large wood masses. The work's heavy weight (3.809 kg) and deep patina testify to its period authenticity. Historical Background During the Ming-Qing transition, local shrines across southern China displayed such gilt-polychrome figures as emblems of moral and civil order. Their shimmering red and gold surfaces symbolised prosperity and protection. The floral diaper technique is typical of regional temples in Fujian and Guangdong. Measurements Height: 43 cm / 16.9? Width: 23 cm / 9.1? Depth: 21 cm / 8.3? Weight: 3.809 kg Condition Structurally sound with rich aged surface. Expected minor losses, shrinkage checks, small chips to edges, and h...

Internal Ref: B1479

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