

SA1205158

Chinese small figure of Budai with yuanbao and ruyi, c. 1900

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1205158****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 11 cm (4.3")

Width = 6 cm (2.4")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

A finely cast Chinese bronze figure of Budai, dating to circa 1900. He stands barefoot in flowing robes, lifting a yuanbao ingot above his head and holding a ruyi sceptre, two traditional emblems of prosperity, blessing, and fulfilled wishes. The modelling is confident and lively, with a cheerful face, rounded belly, and drapery falling in soft folds around the body. The dark brown patina is attractively varied, with lighter rubbing to the high points and natural green oxidation in the recesses and within the hollow base. The underside also shows a few indistinct scratched marks, seemingly incidental rather than a formal signature or inscription. Budai was originally a semi-legendary wandering monk of China and was only later understood as an incarnation of Maitreya, the Buddha of the Future. This helps explain why figures of this type were valued not simply as decorative bronzes, but as auspicious images associated with happiness, abundance, benevolence, and spiritual good fortune. Most likely intended for domestic display, this is a pleasing and well-sized cabinet bronze of clear symbolic character.

Measurements: Height: 11 cm (4.3?) Width: 6 cm (2.4?) Depth: 5 cm (2...)

Internal Ref: B1679

Seller Details

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