

SA1216034

Chinese Nephrite Archaistic Cup with Taotie Handles, c. 1900-1910

Price

GBP 550

| USD \$743 | EUR 643

Item Reference: SA1216034**Date of manufacture: Edwardian**

Dimensions

Height = 5 cm (2.0")

Width = 8.5 cm (3.3")

Depth = 6.1 cm (2.4")

Description

A finely carved Chinese nephrite cup dating to the early 20th century, circa 1900-1910. The vessel is modelled in the form of an archaistic ritual cup with a flared rim, rounded body and paired taotie-mask handles inspired by ancient Chinese bronze forms. Decorative rather than ceremonial in character, the piece reflects the refined scholar's taste of the late Qing and early Republic period. The cup is carved from translucent natural nephrite with deep olive, honey-yellow and smoky black tones throughout the body. When held to the light, the thinner areas reveal impressive translucency and complex internal structure within the stone. The dark spots, golden areas and long linear markings are natural mineral inclusions and veins within the nephrite, not cracks or damage. The underside retains faint uneven circular tool marks associated with traditional hand-finishing. The small perforations within the handles are slightly irregular, supporting traditional hand-tool workmanship. The surface retains a soft hand-polished finish instead of the highly reflective appearance commonly associated with later mass-produced carvings. Historically, vessels of this type originated as ...

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