

SA1232120

Chinese Qing Dynasty Carved Tortoiseshell Ruyi Sceptre, Probably Late 19th Century



Price

GBP 7,500

| USD \$10,226 | EUR 8,752

Item Reference: SA1232120**Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 5 cm (2.0")

Width = 8.5 cm (3.3")

Depth = 28 cm (11.0")

Description

An exceptionally finely carved Chinese ruyi sceptre made from natural tortoiseshell, dating from the Qing dynasty and probably from the late 19th century. The material displays rich natural mottling ranging from translucent honey and amber tones to deep dark brown. The traditional ruyi form is combined with elaborate multi-layered decoration executed in high relief, finely incised detail and intricate pierced openwork. Ruyi, meaning "as you wish," is a traditional Chinese ceremonial sceptre symbolising authority, good fortune and the fulfilment of wishes. Its curved handle terminates in a broad head derived from the lingzhi fungus, an ancient Chinese symbol of longevity and immortality. The principal decoration consists of eight articulated cranes among dense auspicious cloud scrolls. The most remarkable feature is the series of eight separately carved and articulated cranes. Each bird is mounted on a small pivot, allowing it to move independently while remaining securely retained within the pierced cloud-scroll decoration. Producing freely moving elements within the surrounding openwork was technically demanding and required considerable precision. The articulated c...

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