

A fine example of Sri Lankan (Ceylon) silver production, this monumental tray (c. 1900)
£8,500.00

A fine example of Sri Lankan (Ceylon) silver production, this monumental tray (c. 1900) is decorated with intricate floral designs, beasts and birds; four lions circle a central design which emulates a flower while the swirling leaf pattern motifs surround elephants and various birds. Particularly notable are the representations of Gandabherunda (or bherunda), a two-headed bird. As a two headed eagle is pervasive in many cultures, scholars have offered various options for this symbol's origin (such as Hittite sculptures). Through the early Middle Ages to 17th century, it was a popular motif of Indian dynasties. Gandabherunda is a mythical bird which is considered so powerful that it could lift Elephants with its talons and beak alone. In the Mahabharata an eagle (Garuda) catches an elephant and tortoise in its talons and the word Garuda is also associated with Vishnu. The Sanskrit word bherunda can be translated as terrific, frightful, terrible while Ganda implies hero or warrior. Therefore, the use of this motif in Hindu culture has long been associated with kings and rulers.
The designs on the tray are characteristic of common Sri Lankan decorative motifs.
Multi-petal flowers, intricate floral patterns and animals are often seen on Sri Lankan artefacts of the early 20th century.
The designs have been skillfully executed, with this monumental tray perfectly exemplifying early 20th century Sri Lankan silver production and the Sri Lankan taste for symbolic anthropomorphic imagery.

Measurements:

Width: 70cm

Weight: 3,857 grams

Origin	Asian
Period	Early 1900s
Style	Artisan
Condition	Excellent

Antique ref: 10111