







18th century Chinese Export Silver-Gilt Filigree and Enamel Casket
£4,500.00

8th century Chinese Export Silver-Gilt Filigree and Enamel Box, made in Canton (Guangzhou),China, during the late Qing Dynasty.
The form, with its lobed quatrefoil outline, dense silver filigree scrollwork, gilded ground, and traces of blue and green enamel decoration, is characteristic of the luxury filigree objects produced by Canton silversmiths for both the Chinese elite and the European export market. Comparable examples are preserved in major collections and have appeared at Christie's, where related filigree boxes are attributed to Canton workshops of the 18th and 19th centuries.
Of lobed quatrefoil form, the box and conforming stand entirely covered with exceptionally fine filigree decoration composed of tightly coiled silver wires arranged in geometric and floral patterns. The domed cover centred by a stylised floral rosette enclosed within radiating filigree panels, the surrounding field enriched with scrolling foliate ornament highlighted with translucent blue and green enamels. The sides are similarly decorated with floral cartouches and continuous scrollwork, demonstrating the remarkable precision and technical sophistication of Cantonese filigree production.
Chinese filigree silver represented one of the most admired luxury exports of the Qing period. European collectors, including royal patrons, developed a particular enthusiasm for the delicate lace-like workmanship produced by Canton workshops. The complexity of the wirework, combined with gilding and enamel decoration, reflects a tradition that blended Chinese decorative aesthetics with forms intended for international markets. Comparable filigree boxes formed part of the celebrated collection of Catherine the Great and are now preserved in the State Hermitage Museum, Saint Petersburg.
The present example belongs to a rare group of highly decorative filigree boxes intended forjewellery, cosmetics, sewing implements, betel accessories, or precious personal possessions. The accompanying pierced stand further enhances its ceremonial and display function.

Measurements:

Box:- Width: 10cm x 8cm, Height: 3.7cm

Weight: 85 grams

Plate:- Width: 12.5cm x 10.2cm, Height: 1.5cm

Weight: 29 grams

Total weight: 116 grams

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Origin	Chinese
Period	18th Century
Condition	Excellent
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