



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

18th century Chinese Export Silver-Gilt Filigree and Enamel Casket, made in Canton (Guangzhou), China, during the late Qing Dynasty, circa 1850–1900.

Silver, silver-gilt, filigree wirework and enamel.

Of lobed quatrefoil form, the casket 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 caskets 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 for jewellery, 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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Period	18th Century
Condition	Excellent
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