



**A very fine late 19th century Burmese Shan States silver cup and cover.
£3,250.00**

A very fine late 19th century Burmese Shan States silver cup and cover. The body of the cup is of dodecagon shape terminating in a bowl supported on a round foot with a handle applied to the body of the cup terminating in a Chinthe. The lid has a dodecagon lip rising in a dome shape to the round knob.

The twelve sides of the cup are formed of distinct rectangular panels, each demarcated with a border of small balls. Each of the panels is decorated with a lush vegetal arabesque design centred on a flower motif. A motif of trailing arabesque flowers runs around the cup above and below the panels. The lid is similarly decorated in three distinct bands with lines of decoration to separate them.

The exquisite floral decoration employed on this cup has a long history in Burma and is to be found in a wide range of artistic techniques from painting, sculpture and architecture to the applied arts in general. This form of decoration is called Kanote in Burma which means 'tendrils of lotus flowers'.

The lotus is a central image in Buddhism and represents the purification of the spirit, spiritual awakening and faithfulness. The intricate designs that developed in Burma incorporating the flower in complex arabesque forms ultimately originate in the Indian sub-continent and the spread of Buddhism.

At the base of the handle is a Chinthe which is the Burmese word for lion. These are not mythical creatures but are represented in a stylised manner and are a common feature of Burmese architecture and iconography. They are particularly associated as guardians and are often found at the entrances to pagodas and temples as well as on revered objects such as the palin (the Burmese royal throne) and bells used for various Buddhist rituals. Within the Burmese zodiac they also represent those born on a Tuesday.

Measurements:

Width: 13cm, Height: 12cm

Weight: 321 grams

Material and Technique	Silver
Origin	Other
Period	1960s
Condition	Excellent
Dimensions	Width: 13cm, Height: 12cm Weight: 321 grams

Antique ref: JC-19TH-07240