



Bonhams

Fine Chinese Art

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PROPERTY FROM AN IMPORTANT EUROPEAN PRIVATE COLLECTION 重要歐洲私人藏品

Lots 214 - 218

214^Y

A RARE RHINOCEROS HORN 'GRAPEVINE' LIBATION CUP

17th/18th century

The exterior crisply carved and pierced with a gnarled grapevine, tendrils and leaves bearing numerous luscious grape bunches, the horn of dark caramel-brown tone.

15.5cm (6 1/8in) long.

£45,000 - 65,000

CNY410,000 - 590,000

十七世紀/十八世紀 犀角葡萄攀藤紋盃

Provenance: a distinguished European private collection, on loan to the Oriental Museum, Durham, from the mid-1970s to circa 2011, and thence by descent

來源：

顯貴歐洲私人收藏，於70年代中旬至大約2011年借展予英國道咸大學東方藝術館，並由後人保存迄今

For another related rhinoceros horn libation cup decorated with grapevine, see J.Chapman, *The Art of Rhinoceros Horn Carving in China*, London, 1999, p.62, no.32. See also a related rhinoceros horn 'grapevine' libation cup, 18th century, which was sold at Bonhams London, 10 November 2011, lot 434.



(two views)



215^Y

A VERY RARE RHINOCEROS HORN 'FLORAL' BOWL

17th/18th century

The circular bowl carved around the exterior in high relief with gnarled branches issuing prunus, magnolia and hibiscus, the horn of dark-chocolate tone.

11.6cm (4 5/8in) diam.

£30,000 - 40,000

CNY270,000 - 360,000

十七/十八世紀 犀角花卉紋盃

Provenance: a distinguished European private collection, on loan to the Oriental Museum, Durham, from the mid-1970s to circa 2011, and thence by descent

來源：

顯貴歐洲私人收藏，於70年代中旬至大約2011年借展予英國道咸大學東方藝術館，並由後人保存迄今

Rhinoceros horn bowls are rare, because they required a horn of exceptional size. Jan Chapman in *The Art of Rhinoceros Horn Carving in China*, London, 1999, pp.88-91, explains the rarity of bowls and illustrates an example of similar shape, but carved with a figural scene and bearing an inscription by the Qianlong emperor on its base, in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, pl.71. Compare also with a related rhinoceros horn 'floral' bowl, Ming dynasty, illustrated in *The Complete Collection of Treasures of the Palace Museum: Bamboo, Wood, Ivory and Rhinoceros Horn Carvings*, Shanghai, 2001, pl.111.



(two views)



216^Y

A VERY FINE RHINOCEROS HORN ARCHAISTIC 'DRAGON AND PHOENIX' LIBATION CUP

17th/18th century

Exquisitely carved around the exterior with a band of archaistic *taotie* masks in relief against a key-fret ground, between pendant cicada lappets below and confronting long-tailed phoenix above, the long handle crisply carved as a phoenix detailed with elaborate plumage curling over the rim, approaching a slender *chilong* coiling beneath and snaring upwards with jagged fangs, the interior perched by a small high relief *chilong*, the horn of an attractive honey-amber tone, wood stand. 16.5cm (6 1/2in) high (2).

£30,000 - 40,000
CNY270,000 - 360,000

十七/十八世紀 犀角龍鳳呈祥饕餮紋盃

Provenance: a distinguished European private collection, on loan to the Oriental Museum, Durham, from the mid-1970s to circa 2011, and thence by descent

Published and Illustrated: Phillips, *Selected Chinese Art from the Oriental Museum, Durham*, London, November 2000, no.4 (acc.no. D54)

來源：
顯貴歐洲私人收藏，於70年代中旬至大約2011年期間借展予英國道咸大學東方藝術館，並由後人保存迄今

出版及著錄：
《Selected Chinese Art from the Oriental Museum, Durham》· 菲利普斯，倫敦，2000年11月，編號4 (館藏編號D54)

This rhinoceros horn libation cup demonstrates the consummate skill of the carver, with the multi-layered carving and naturalistic plumage of the phoenix. The largest dragon is unusual and rare with his *ruyi*-like bifurcated tail and knobby spine, his prowess demonstrated in the superbly carved jagged teeth. This design of phoenix and dragon together with the exquisite quality of carving are suggestive of Imperial Qing style. Compare with a related rhinoceros horn 'dragon and phoenix' libation cup, 18th century, illustrated by T.Fok, *Connoisseurship of Rhinoceros Horn Carving in China*, Hong Kong, 1999, p.87, no.40.

Compare with a related archaistic rhinoceros horn libation cup, 17th/18th century, with similar archaistic motifs and designs of dragon, but without phoenix and the unusual shape of the elongated handle extending below the foot rim, which was sold at Bonhams London, 11 May 2017, lot 301.



(two views)



217^Y

A RARE RHINOCEROS HORN 'HIBISCUS' WASHER

17th century

Exquisitely carved as a blossoming hibiscus flower with six overlapping petals, a long curling stamen issuing from the interior, supported on openwork leafy foliage and flowering hibiscus forming the base, the horn of an attractive dark-chocolate tone.

16.3cm (6 1/2in) long.

£35,000 - 45,000

CNY320,000 - 410,000

十七世紀 犀角木槿花紋盃

Provenance: a distinguished European private collection, on loan to the Oriental Museum, Durham, from the mid-1970s to circa 2011 (acc. no.D29), and thence by descent

來源：

顯貴歐洲私人收藏，於70年代中旬至大約2011年借展予英國道咸大學東方藝術館（館藏編號D29），並由後人保存迄今

The hibiscus is easily recognisable by its stamens which extend far out of the flower. Compare with a related rhinoceros horn carved in the form of a hibiscus with stamen, is illustrated by J.Chapman, *The Art of Rhinoceros Horn Carving in China*, London, 1999, p.165, pl.206.

218

A BUFFALO HORN LIBATION CUP

Probably Qing Dynasty

The elaborately carved dark-honey-coloured horn in the shape of an archaic bronze vessel with six powerful and lively *chilongs* clambering around the rim and the exterior, the strap handle with a stylised dragon head looking outwards on the rim of the mouth and the tail curling and splitting into two parts with a dragon flat on the handle, the body with a band of six dragons with long writhing bodies, a keyfret pattern running along the foot and the rim. 14cm (5 1/2in) high.

£5,000 - 8,000
CNY45,000 - 72,000

或清 角雕仿古螭龍紋盃

Provenance: a distinguished European private collection

來源：顯貴歐洲私人收藏

Compare with a related buffalo horn 'scholar and attendant' libation cup, 17th century, which was sold at Bonhams Hong Kong, 30 May 2017, lot 135.

THE PROPERTY OF A EUROPEAN FAMILY

歐洲家族藏品

219^Y

A RARE BUFFALO HORN 'LAKESIDE' VASE

17th/18th century

Carved to the exterior with a continuous riverscape scene, depicting a sage holding a walking cane accompanied by a boy attendant under drooping branches of pine and bamboo, travelling towards a thatched cottage across the bridge beside rocky outcrops and pine branches emerging amidst dense scrolling clouds, the horn of an attractive honey-amber tone. 12.8cm (5in) long.

£5,000 - 8,000
CNY45,000 - 72,000

十七世紀 角雕高士賞遊盃

Provenance: an important European private collection

來源：歐洲私人收藏

The carving around the exterior of the present lot is inspired from landscape painting of the Ming dynasty, where the viewer imagines himself as the small figure in the image gazing out across the landscape. The attendant carrying a *guqin* in a cloth bag gazes humourously directly at us, which demonstrates an unusually large degree of freedom of creativity practiced by the master carver.

A related buffalo horn 'scholar and attendant' libation cup, 17th century, was sold at Bonhams Hong Kong, 30 May 2017, lot 135.



218



219



THE PROPERTY OF A GENTLEMAN 士紳藏品

220^Y

A CARVED RHINOCEROS HORN 'CHILONG AND PINE' LIBATION CUP

17th/18th century

Deftly carved around the exterior with archaic chilong clambering on rocks beneath a large gnarled pine tree forming the handle and with its branches extending into the interior of the cup, the lower section with finely incised waves visible also on the base, the horn of dark-caramel tone.

17cm (6 3/4in) long.

£20,000-30,000

CNY182,000 - 280,000

十七/十八世紀 犀角蟠螭山水紋盃

Provenance: Henry Grünfeld (1904-1999), and thence by descent within the family

來源：

Henry Grünfeld先生（1904-1999年）收藏，並由後人保存迄今

Henry Grünfeld, as co-founder of the investment bank S.G. Warburg, was a prominent individual in the development of investment banking and the growth of London as a financial centre following the Second World War. Born in Breslau, he became prominent in the German Steel Industry at the age of just 20 after he took over his father's family steel piping business. Shortly after 1934, following the rise of Hitler, he fled to London where he joined forces with Siegmund Warburg in the New Trading Company, which was established to help refugees from Europe extract their money from their native country and invest it safely.

Rhinoceros horn libation cups that combine naturalistically carved scenes of nature such as pine trees together with archaic *chilong* are rare. Compare with a related rhinoceros horn cup with dragons amidst a painterly-style landscape, 17th century, illustrated by T. Fok, *Connoisseurship of Rhinoceros Horn Carving in China*, Hong Kong, 1999, p.54, no.7.



(two views)



221^Y

A RHINOCEROS HORN 'PRUNUS' LIBATION CUP

17th/18th century

The exterior carved with six shaped medallions enclosing 'earth diaper' patterns, deftly carved with gnarled branches bearing delicate prunus blossoms and flower buds, the base with finely incised whirling waves, the horn of dark golden-honey tone, carved wood stand.

12.6cm (5in) long. (2).

£4,000 - 6,000

CNY36,000 - 54,000

十七/十八世紀 犀角梅花紋花瓣式盃

THE PROPERTY OF A GENTLEMAN 士紳藏品

222^Y

A RHINOCEROS HORN 'AUSPICIOUS BIRDS' LIBATION CUP

17th/18th century

Finely carved around the exterior with pairs of cranes, phoenix, magpies, sparrows, and mandarin ducks, all amidst landscape with bamboo, prunus and pines with two *wutong* trees forming the handle, the horn of rich caramel-brown tone.

15.1cm (5 8/9in) long.

£10,000 - 15,000

CNY91,000 - 140,000

十七/十八世紀 犀角鳳鳥雙棲犀角盃

Provenance: a Scottish private collection

來源：蘇格蘭私人收藏

Pairs of birds represent the auspicious wishes for fertility as well as for happiness in marriage, which is the particular symbolism of the pair of mandarin ducks. Related rhinoceros horn libation cups carved with cranes and phoenix in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin, are illustrated by J.Chapman, *The Art of Rhinoceros Horn Carving in China*, London, 1999, p.187.

Compare with a similar rhinoceros horn 'auspicious birds' libation cup, 17th/18th century, which was sold at Bonhams London, 11 May 2017, lot 310.





223^Y

**A PAIR OF LARGE FULL-TIP RHINOCEROS
HORN LIBATION CUPS**

19th century

Both intricately carved with wavy rims in the form of lotus and raised on a long tapering openwork stem extending to the tip of the horn depicting further blossoming lotus and buds with bees and butterflies, the impressive wood stands elaborately carved. *Each cup 72cm (28 3/8in) long. (4).*

£40,000 - 60,000

CNY360,000 - 540,000

十九世紀 犀角鏤雕纏枝蓮紋擺件 一對

These large full-tip cups were most probably carved in Guangdong, an important centre producing many categories of works of art including ivory, furniture, clocks and instruments, cloisonné and painted enamel, some of which were made as tribute for the Qing Court. Such impressive full-tip rhinoceros horn libation cups were often made in pairs and raised on intricately carved hardwood stands, accentuating their presence; see a related rhinoceros horn full-tip libation cup, in the Durham University Oriental Museum, illustrated by J.Chapman, *The Art of Rhinoceros Horn Carving in China*, London, 1999, p.72, pl.38.

Compare also with a related pair of rhinoceros horn libation cups, late Qing dynasty, which was sold at Bonhams London, 9 November 2017, lot 158.

