

Single-Owner Collections / Thu, 29th November 2018 / Lot 4020



LOT 4020

A pair of Chinese cloisonné enameled figures of elephants, probably Jiaqing period, each caparisoned beast modelled standing four-square with head lowered and turned to the side, the body in white with gilt detailing, decorated with colourful trappings and draped in a saddle cloth, brightly enamelled with a hanging chime and vapours above crashing waves on a turquoise ground, supporting a double-gourd shaped vase with ribbon handles, height 31cm, each raised on a carved hardwood stand, total height 40cm. Note: the elephant in China is one of the seven Buddhist sacred treasures and symbolizes peace. The combination of an elephant supporting a vase on its back is a reference to peaceful times (taiping youxiang), making pairs of elephants carrying vases an important part of the Imperial throne regalia. A similar pair of figures is illustrated by H. Brinker & A. Lutz in 'Chinese Cloisonné: The Pierre Uldry Collection', number 332, and a very similar single figure was sold by Bonhams, Hong Kong, 3rd November 2015, Lot 51.

Estimate: £5,000 - £8,000

Condition Report

4020. Overall both in very good condition with good vibrant colours.

Elephant on left side of image - small bruise to left side shoulder which has had some filling, approx 3 by 2cm. Otherwise no other significant damage or repairs. Typical light surface wear and scratches.

Elephant on right side of image - no significant damage or repairs. Typical light stress crazing to lower part of front apron where slightly pushed back. Right ear a little loose. Typical light surface wear and scratches.

Stands - both in good condition with typical surface wear.

Created: Fri, 2nd November 2018 21:49