



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE1021)

Fri, 29th Oct 2021

Lot 46

Starting price: €1500

Estimate: €3000

𐤀 RANTEI: A RARE IVORY NETSUKE OF A DUTCHMAN FEEDING A DROMEDARY

By Hogen Rantei, signed Rantei 蘭亭

Japan, Kyoto, early 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely carved as a dromedary standing foursquare atop a flat oval base and eating out of a wicker basket held by a much smaller Dutchman, the hair around the dromedary's hump and its tail neatly incised, its eyes inlaid with dark horn. Two small himotoshi through the base with the signature RANTEI.

HEIGHT 3.2 cm

Condition: Very good condition, appealingly worn, minuscule nibbling to base. Fine honey-brown patina.

Provenance: German private collection.

While there are several netsuke showing Dutchmen riding on dromedaries or camels, this particular depiction of a Dutchman feeding his dromedary appears to be unique.

Literature comparison:

A closely related netsuke of a Dutchman climbing on a dromedary by Rantei is illustrated in Meinertzhagen, Frederick / Lazarnick, George (1986) MCI, Part B, p. 641.

Auction comparison:

Compare a closely related netsuke, unsigned and dated to the 18th century, at Lempertz, Japanische Kunst, 7 June 2019, Cologne, lot 466 (**sold for 5,704 EUR**).