



Fine Netsuke & Sagemono (NE0422)

Fri, 22nd Apr 2022

Viewing:

You may view objects in this auction in our gallery from 19 April to 22 April 2022. We are open Monday to Friday from 10 AM to 6 PM CET, as well as by appointment. On the day of the sale, the viewing will be open until 1 PM CET.

Lot 181

Starting price: €800

Estimate: €1500

SHUZAN YASUSADA: A WOOD NETSUKE OF CHORYO AND KOSEKIKO

By Shuzan Yasusada, signed Shuzan Yasusada □□□□ with kakihan

Japan, Echigo Province, 19th century, Edo period (1615-1868)

Finely carved with Choryo riding a dragon and handing the recovered shoe to Kosekiko atop his horse on a naturalistically carved base, the underside carved with crashing wave and the dragon's scaly body and sharp claws, further with a single himotoshi and the signature SHUZAN YASUSADA with a kakihan within a rectangular plaque.

HEIGHT 3.8 cm

Condition: Very good condition with some wear and few minuscule nicks.

Provenance: French private collection.

Zhang Liang (known as Choryo in Japanese) was a Chinese military strategist and politician who lived in the early Western Han dynasty. The present netsuke depicts the legend of when Choryo met the old man Kosekiko (Huang Shigong) on a bridge. The old man began to teach the art of war to Choryo and one day Kosekiko wanted to test Choryo and threw a shoe into the river where a powerful water dragon lived. The dragon seized the shoe and Choryo defeated it and gave the shoe back to Kosekiko. The present netsuke shows exactly this scene – the proud Choryo, with one foot on the dragon's head, is presenting the shoe to Kosekiko who is mounted on a horse atop a bridge. According to legend, Choryo used the teachings of Kosekiko as a military adviser to Liu Bang, the founder of the Han dynasty.

Auction comparison:

For a netsuke of a boar by this rare artist see Bonhams, Harriet Szechenyi Sale of Japanese Art, 8 November 2011, London, lot 177 (**sold for 4,375 GBP**). Another netsuke by Shuzan Yasusada depicting a tanuki was sold by Zacke, Fine Netsuke & Sagemono, 29 October 2021, Vienna, lot 145 (**sold for EUR 4,803**).

