

COHEN & COHEN

CHINESE EXPORT PORCELAIN AND ORIENTAL ART



sold - pair of chinese export porcelain nodding head figures

Qianlong, circa 1790
European Market
Height: 15 ¾ inches (40cm)

A fine pair of nodding head court ladies, with elegant blue coats, one holding a ruyi sceptre moulded as lingzhi fungi in one hand and both holding iron-red handkerchieves in the other, each with hair up in elaborate designs.

The lingzhi-ruyi, derived from the bracket fungus (*Ganoderma lucidum*) that grows on tree roots, here represents 'wish granting' as well as immortality, suggesting that these maidens are here to grant your every wish. A close inspection of the figure without a sceptre shows no signs of loss and indicates that this is an intended feature.

These are a later version of a very rare type that is on display in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London (FE.18-1978) and two other pairs known in private American collections.