



PROANTIC
LE PLUS BEAU CATALOGUE D'ANTIQUITES

Two Dutch Colonial Solid Satinwood Chairs, Galle, Ceylon (sri Lanka), 18th Century C. 1725-1750



15 000 EUR

Period : 18th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : 75 cm

Height : 101 cm

Depth : 50 cm

Description

A pair of Dutch colonial solid satinwood chairs. Galle, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), c.

1725-1750. The chairs are richly carved, featuring a shell motif at the crest of the backrest, flanked by two birds with open lion-like mouths.

Furthermore with floral and acanthus leaf carvings, shell motifs, and claw feet. Crafted from Ceylon Satinwood (*Chloroxylon swietenia*), these chairs were most likely made by Sinhalese artisans in the Black Town (Pettah) district of Colombo during the VOC (Dutch East India Company) period in Dutch Ceylon (1664-1795). Such satinwood furniture, reflecting Dutch stylistic preferences, was favored by both Europeans and affluent Sinhalese families. While the overall form and decorative elements are inspired by 18th-century European models, the

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incorporation of carved birds--identified by R.L. Brohier as Garuda, the eagle mount of Vishnu--and the detailed carving reflect distinctive Sinhalese craftsmanship. Dimensions: Height 101 cm, width 75 cm, depth 50 cm, seat height 44 cm. Condition report and more pictures available upon request. Ref: An identical chair can be found in the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore (accession number 2015-00480). Also compare with a pair of chairs of the same design but with a different stretcher underneath the seating in the Cleveland Museum of Art (accession number 1922.677). Another similar chair, but with red and gold lacquer-work is in the Museum Sejarah Jakarta and illustrated in Furniture From Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India (Jan Veenendaal, 1985), p. 100, pl. 108. Other identical examples can be found in the Wolvendaal (Dutch Reformed) Church in Colombo, Sri Lanka and illustrated in situ in Furniture of the Dutch Period in Ceylon (R.L. Brohier, 1969), p. 14, fig. 14 and pl. X|||, fig. 4. Furthermore an identical chair is illustrated in Asian Art and the Dutch Taste (Jan Veenendaal, 2014), p. 63, pl. 92. Inv. No: MW270