Set Of 11 19th Century Burmese Bronze Opium Weights



1 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Width : 11 cm

Height : 13 cm

Depth : 7 cm

Description

Set of 11 19th-century Burmese bronze opium weightsStylized opium weights, in the form of mythical Hintha birds, in patinated bronzeThe Hintha, also known as the Hamsa or Brahmani duck, is a sacred water bird deeply rooted in Burmese mythology and folklore. The largest of these features an integrated curved handle that extends from the crest of the head to its finely worked tail feathersDespite their popular Western nickname ("opium weights"), these bronze figurines were the standard official weights used throughout the Konbaung Burmese empire to measure all daily market goods, bulk commodities and monetary metals such as silverThe largest: 11 cm wide, 7 cm deep and 13 cm high. The base measures 7 cm by 7 cmThe smallest: 2 cm wide, 1.5 cm deep and 2 cm

Dealer

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highThe largest weighs 1.6 kgIn total, they weigh 3.1 kgProvenance: Robert Willocx Collection, BrusselsThe Robert Willocx Collection was a highly regarded private collection of Asian artIt was built up over several decades by Professor Robert Willocx (1932-2023), an eminent Belgian physician, professor and gastroenterologist at the Catholic University of Leuven.