

HISTORIC KOREAN WOODEN PRINTING BLOCKS | DECORATIVE WALL SHELF ART

SKU: GD1635



An extraordinary pair of carved wood printing blocks from Korea, almost certainly crafted in 18/19th Century during the late Joseon to early Korean Empire period. These hand-chiselled blocks are intricately carved on both sides with Chinese characters (Hanja). Each block features meticulously uniform characters, reflecting the skilled artistry of the period. The surfaces are tarnished to a wonderful ebonised patina with the original time worn wood framing still intact.

Still in remarkable condition for their age, the characters can be clearly seen and the framing is in excellent sound order. Although reversible, each block has a wire band and hook for wall hanging. They are also well suited for as shelf art, adding depth, age and character to a space.

These printing blocks not only serve as decorative pieces but also as a tangible connection to Korean heritage. Perfect for collectors and enthusiasts of Asian art and history.

Both of similar scale and design, sold as a pair.

Similar Artefacts

Similar wood print blocks can be found in the permanent collection of the British Museum in London, including: reference numbers 1996,0715.2, 1997,0227.2 and 1991,1220.8. These



artefacts highlight the historical and cultural significance of Korean printmaking during the late Joseon and early Korean Empire periods.

Historical Context

Though it is not known exactly when woodblock printing began in Korea, it is known that woodblock printing originated in China. However, a copy of the Mugujeonggwang Daedaranigyeong (Spotless Pure Light Dharani Sutra), found in a sarira container enshrined in the Seokgatap (Sakyamuni Pagoda) at Bulguksa Temple located in Gyeongju, capital of the Silla Kingdom, was printed in the early or mid-8th century, and is now recognized as the oldest woodblock printing in the world. It demonstrates that Korea already knew about and utilized woodblock printing as early as the Three Kingdoms (4C-668 AD) or Unified Silla (668-935) eras. Source: woodprint.kr

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Age	19th Century
Material	Beech
Origin	Korea
Dimensions	H63cm x W34cm x D6cm / H25" x W13.5" x D2.5"

GALLERY IMAGES



