

Finch & C^o



CHINESE EXPORT ORIENTAL HARDWOOD CANE SEATED SIDE CHAIRS

A PAIR OF CHINESE EXPORT ORIENTAL HARDWOOD CANE SEATED SIDE CHAIRS

CIRCA 1820 – 40

SIZE: 95CM HIGH – 37¼ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

MOSTLY MADE IN CANTON FOR EXPORT TO THE WEST, CHINA TRADE FURNITURE WAS PRODUCED FOR THE ENGLISH, DUTCH, SWEDISH AND DANISH MARKETS. SOMETIMES THE CRAFTSMEN HAD ACTUAL EXAMPLES TO COPY FROM, BUT MOST OF THE DESIGNS USED WERE TAKEN FROM PATTERN BOOKS. ALTHOUGH HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY THE FASHIONABLE STYLES POPULAR AT THE TIME, IN EUROPE, CHINESE EXPORT FURNITURE NEARLY ALWAYS BETRAYS ITS ORIENTAL ORIGINS.

BECAUSE OF THE BULK, SIZE AND DIFFICULTY OF SHIPPING LARGE PIECES OF HARDWOOD FURNITURE IT IS UNLIKELY THAT FURNITURE WAS COMMISSIONED TO BE MADE IN CHINA FOR RESALE IN THE WEST. ESPECIALLY AS CARGOES OF PORCELAIN, SILKS AND TEA FOR EXAMPLE WERE FAR MORE VALUABLE AND EASIER COMMODITIES TO EXPORT. IT IS MORE PROBABLE THAT FURNITURE WAS ORDERED AND MADE FOR DOMESTIC OR PUBLIC USE IN THE ORIENT AND THEN SHIPPED HOME.

CANE SEATING IS CHARACTERISTIC OF ALL CHINA TRADE SEATING FURNITURE IN THE PERIOD 1790 – 1840.