An incised bamboo cane depicting trade shipping at the Dejima Gate, Nagasaki

£850



REF: 5668

Height: 88.5 cm (34.8")

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Diameter: 3 cm (1.2")

Description

Depicting Dutch factories and store houses lining the water and ships gathering to gain access to the harbour.

Japan, circa 1860s

Nagasaki was the only port in Japan open to foreign trade (mainly Dutch and Chinese) for more than 200 years (1639-1859). Foreigners were confined to a man-made island called Dejima, which was separated from the city by a stone wall and a canal. The only way in and out was through a small gate with guardhouses on each side and a checkpoint in the middle. This can be seen on this cane, which was made as a souvenir for travellers fascinated by the exoticism of the Orient.

Provenance: The Legh family, Adlington Hall, Cheshire

Located just outside of Macclesfield, Adlington Hall is one of the stateliest mansions of Cheshire and remained the ancestral residence of the Legh family from c.1310 until its sale this year.

The great hall, constructed in the county's traditional 'black-and-white' timber-framed style, was built in the mid-15th century, with later additions having been made both to the hall and its contents - including the organ (famously played by Handel in the 17th century), the Georgian façade added in the 18th century, as well as the remarkable collection of items acquired by the Legh family through the ages.

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