LANGFORDS
Antique & Contemporary Silver

# Six antique Chinese silver bowls

Wang Hing & Co

Sold

Langfords
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REF: 2785

Height: 55 mm (2.17")

Diameter: 122 mm (4.8")

Weight: 534 g

Description

Set of six antique Chinese export silver openwork bowls fitted with cranberry coloured glass liners. Each is prettily embossed with a different flower or plant - Chinese iris, peony, chrysanthemum, Chinese rose, cherry blossom, bamboo.

Chinese export silver was produced in China from the mid-18th to mid-20th century for a largely Western audience, made in the European style. With Western-inspired forms new, highly desirable works of Chinese export silver were created, with a mix of Western forms and Eastern iconography. During the mid-China Trade period (1840-1880), silversmiths began adding Chinese decorative motifs such as bamboo, dragons or warriors onto typically Western forms. Cranes and dragons are extremely popular motifs. For many thousands of years dragons have symbolised wisdom, harmony and prosperity in China, and in ancient Chinese culture, they represent imperial power.

Wang Hing was was the retail trading name chosen by the Lo family, an upper-middle-class wealthy merchant family who were specialists in trading jade, who established a retail silversmith business in Canton soon after 1852. The business evolved to become the best known and most prolific maker of export silver during the late China Trade period. Towards the end of the 19th century Wang Hing exhibited silver at international exhibitions and opened a flagship store in Hong Kong in around 1920.

Thank you to Adrien Von Ferscht () for sharing his knowledge. Adrien is considered the leading expert for Chinese export silver acting as an independent consultant and expert to museums, important private collections, academics and enthusiasts around the world.



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