



**Chinese famille rose figure of Liu Hai and the money toad, Qianlong (1736-95)
POA**

Chinese famille rose figure of Liu Hai and the money toad, Qianlong (1736-95), with a laughing Liu Hai standing upon a rockwork base, with right arm outstretched, one foot upon his three-legged toad and a string of money held in his left hand, wearing a red open-chested robe with gilt foliate roundels and a further string of coins hanging from his belt.

Dimensions:

Height: 16.4cm. (6 7/16in.)

Condition:

Restoration to the right arm

Notes:

Liu Haichan is a Daoist immortal said to have lived during the 10th century and revered as a bringer of good fortune and wealth. He is often depicted with a three-legged toad known as the Chanchu (??; 'toad in the moon') or Jinchan (??; 'money toad'). Though textual evidence concerning this semi-mythical figure is scarce, he is thought to have been a Minister of State and writer of alchemical texts, converting to Daoism later in life and spending his later years roaming the countryside as an esoteric teacher in search of self-cultivation and the secret of immortality. According to legend, he successfully obtained this secret with the help of the Chanchu, which could produce a pearl with the power to transform an ordinary mortal into a Daoist xian. Liu Hai is frequently depicted with his foot upon the Chanchu's head, in a highly auspicious pose known as 'Liu Hai sporting with the toad' (????), said to bring about good fortune and wealth. As the story goes, the Chanchu would frequently dive into a nearby well or pond, but would invariably be lured back by Liu Hai's string of golden coins.

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| Material and Technique | Porcelain with overglaze polychrome enamel decoration |
| Origin | Chinese |
| Period | 18th Century |
| Condition | Very good |
| Dimensions | Height: 16.4cm. (6 7/16in.) |

Antique ref: U116