





A fine and rare early 19th century Indian silver and parcel gilt elephant toy.

£16,000.00

A fine and rare early 19th century Indian silver and parcel gilt toy. Modelled as an elephant, richly caparisoned with bells and floral adornments, with elaborate howdah and ridden by an elephant driver in a decorated tunic holding a combination axe and ankus the whole mounted on a decorated base with four wheels. The elephant has a long and complex history in the culture of the Indian sub-continent. The Asian elephant appears in various religious traditions and mythologies. They are treated positively and are sometimes revered as deities, often symbolising strength and wisdom. According to the Hindu cosmology of ancient India the Earth is supported and guarded by mythical World Elephants at the compass points of the cardinal directions. The classical Sanskrit literature