
PAGODA RED



BLUE AND WHITE FU LION HEADREST

\$280

Mid-20th Century • China • Porcelain • Collection #CESB029B

W: 4.75" D: 2.5" H: 5.5"

This small ceramic block is actually a form of Chinese headrest or neck pillow. Popular during the Qing dynasty, rigid headrests such as this were used by upper-class women to protect their elaborate hairstyles by elevating the head during slumber. This example dates to the mid-20th century and is glazed in the blue-and-white style with rich, cobalt-blue color.

Each side of the headrest has a quadrilobe cartouche framing a mythical fu lion playing with a brocade ball, a motif that evokes the idiom "may you and your descendant achieve high rank." A powerful and benevolent guardian, the fu lion (shizi) is the perfect force to protect against nightmares and bad energy. Continued...



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The playful scene is surrounded by a cracked ice pattern dotted with plum blossoms, symbols of winter and longevity. A geometric meander trims the corners and small bats frame coin-shaped ventilation cutouts, symbolizing wealth and happiness.

Minor hairline crack to coin cutout.

