
PAGODA RED



BLUE AND WHITE FU LION HEADREST

\$680

c. 1900 • China • Porcelain • Collection #CESB071

W: 9.75" D: 6.0" H: 6.25"

This large 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 early 20th century and is glazed in the blue-and-white style with rich, cobalt-blue color.

The headrest is decorated on all sides with mythical fu lion dogs playing with ribbon-tied brocade balls, 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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A geometric meander trims the corners and small dragon-like bats frame coin-shaped ventilation cutouts, symbolizing wealth and happiness.

Old repair to one corner.

