

DECONSTRUCTING ... PERANAKAN BELT BUCKLES

By: Matthew Elton

These stunning 22 carat gold Peranakan *belt buckles* were made in Singapore between the 1930s and the 1950s. Worn by Peranakan women with a gold or silver belt, they were used to hold up their sarong which was traditionally worn with a kebaya.



Typical of the time, one of the buckles features an intricately carved dragon and phoenix, motifs in Chinese mythology for marital harmony. They represent the *yin* (dragon) and *yang* (phoenix) balance essential for married life and were often commissioned as wedding gifts by wealthier Peranakan families.

These days, *belt buckles* are heirlooms, passed down from grandmothers with the promise they will never be removed from the family. However, if these were to come to market, we would estimate the smaller version could achieve \$8,000 – \$10,000 and the larger \$15,000 – \$18,000.



Matthew Elton is the founder and dynamic personality behind HotLotz Auction House. As Singapore's only full-service auction house, HotLotz offers a simple solution for buyers and sellers alike. For more information download the HotLotz app or visit hotlotz.com.



HotLotz are coming to the SCC Open House Fun Day!

Have you got an item at home you're curious about? Bring it down to the Victoria Room on Sunday 20th October from 11am to 5pm. The HotLotz team will be offering an 'Antiques Roadshow' style appraisal if you would like to learn more about your items!

To make an appointment, please email hello@hotlotz.com with your preferred time.