

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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CERTIFICATE OF DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Shanghai Export Wicker & Rattan Goose Container & Companion Vase — Mid-to-Late 20th Century



MARKET VALUE

\$175–350

Goose container + companion vase — world traveler provenance, fine wicker weave, lacquered head & carved feet

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$350–600

Collector ceiling for a large, high-quality Shanghai export wicker figural container with documented personal provenance



*Shanghai Export Wicker & Rattan Goose Container
16"H × 12"L — Lacquered head, carved wood feet
Fine tightly-woven rattan body, open-top container
Companion wicker vase, 7.5"H
Dark reed inlay bamboo motif decoration*

Shanghai Wicker & Rattan Goose Container with Companion Vase

Goose: 16"H × 12"L — Lacquered Head, Carved Wood Feet, Open Container Body

*Vase: 7.5"H — Wicker with Dark Reed Inlay Bamboo Motif
World Traveler Provenance — Shanghai Export Craft*

HISTORY & PROVENANCE

Shanghai has been China's premier port city and export craft center for over two centuries, and from the late 19th century onward its artisans produced some of the world's most admired wicker, rattan, and reed basketwork for the international export market. Western travelers, diplomats, merchants, and collectors who passed through Shanghai brought home extraordinary examples of this craft — figural baskets, decorative containers, furniture, and ornamental pieces that demonstrated a level of weaving skill and artistic sophistication rarely found elsewhere in the world.

This goose container is a superb example of **Shanghai export figural wicker craft** at its finest. The body of the goose — 16 inches tall and 12 inches long — is constructed entirely of **fine tightly-woven rattan**, the individual strands no wider than a matchstick, wound with remarkable consistency and control around an interior armature to create the naturalistic form of a

PROVENANCE

From the personal collection of a world traveler
and dedicated international collector —
acquired directly from Shanghai export trade

standing goose. The feather texture of the body, the curve of the neck, the spread of the wings — all are achieved not by carving or molding but purely through the tension and direction of the weave. The **head and bill are lacquered**, giving them the dark, polished, water-resistant finish characteristic of the finest Shanghai wicker pieces; the **feet are carved wood**, separately fashioned and attached, their webbed form rendered with charming anatomical accuracy. The goose body functions as an **open-top container** — accessible from the back — making it both a decorative sculpture and a functional storage or display vessel.

The **companion vase**, 7.5 inches tall, is woven in the same fine rattan technique with a classic urn/baluster form and decorative **dark reed inlay** in a bamboo or grass-leaf motif — the inlaid design worked directly into the weave, not painted on. This inlay technique is a mark of advanced basketry skill.

Both pieces came from the **personal collection of a world traveler and dedicated international collector** — someone who acquired directly from the source, choosing pieces of genuine quality rather than tourist-market goods. Shanghai export wicker of this caliber and scale is increasingly rare in the American secondary market, as most examples either remained in Asia or were purchased by serious collectors who kept them.

◆ *"To weave a goose from rattan — to build feathers from fiber, a neck from nothing but tension and skill — is to make craft indistinguishable from art."* ◆

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ◆ Origin: Shanghai, China — export craft tradition, mid-to-late 20th century
- ◆ Goose dimensions: 16" tall × 12" long — substantial display scale
- ◆ Construction: Fine tightly-woven rattan body over interior armature — naturalistic goose form
- ◆ Head: Lacquered — dark polished finish, characteristic of quality Shanghai export work
- ◆ Feet: Carved wood, separately fashioned — webbed form, anatomically rendered
- ◆ Function: Open-top container accessible from back — decorative and functional

- ◆ Companion vase: 7.5"H — fine wicker, dark reed inlay bamboo/grass-leaf motif
- ◆ Provenance: Personal collection of a world traveler and international collector
- ◆ Rarity: Large-scale Shanghai figural wicker containers of this quality are uncommon in the American secondary market

Collector's note: Shanghai export wicker and rattan figural pieces are collected within both the Asian decorative arts market and the broader folk art and decorative crafts category. Value is driven by scale, quality of weave, condition of the lacquered or finished elements, and provenance. This goose scores strongly on all counts — its 16" scale is substantial, the weave is fine and even, the lacquered head and carved feet are intact, and the world-traveler provenance suggests direct-from-source acquisition rather than secondary resale. The companion vase with its inlaid decoration adds value as a paired set. Market Value reflects realistic shop/private-sale pricing; Estimated Worth reflects what an Asian decorative arts or fine basketry collector would pay for a complete, well-preserved example of this size and quality.

*"Someone crossed an ocean to bring this home —
and the goose has been worth every mile of the
journey."*