



JOHN SIUDMAK

ASIAN ART

FROM THE COLLECTION
OF THE LATE SIMON DIGBY

Viewing by appointment only

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This is the last assortment from the collection of the late Simon Digby. It mostly consists of modest pieces, which should be of interest to a wide audience. It gives an opportunity to those who don't have a lot of money to acquire desirable objects and especially to those who knew Simon directly.

TERRACOTTA IMAGE OF A STANDING FEMALE

Senthen, Kashmir
ca. 50 BC/ 50AD
Height: 11.6cm

Wearing Hellenistic garments of belted chiton and himation, produced from a mould.

Note: This belongs to an intriguing group of terracotta images produced in Hellenistic and early Indian style, which was found exclusively in Kashmir at a site known as Semthan, near Bijbihara. For another example see Siudmak, 2013, chapter 2, part 1. Surprisingly, nothing comparable has been found in the neighbouring areas of Greek influence such as Taxila, Charsadda or Begram.

£1,200



GREY SCHIST NIMBATE FIGURE OF HARITI

Gandhara, Pakistan Seated in European style, holding a cornucopia in the raised left hand, the right hand holding a globular pot and cover.
4th/ 5th century
Height: 12.6cm

£850

Note: It should be noted that the cornucopia in Gandhara art is depicted as an actual horn bearing fruit, cf. Lyons/Ingholt 1971 pl.347, as in the Western Classical mode. In the early sculpture of Kashmir of the fifth century, or slightly earlier, the horn is transformed into a slender leafy tendril with zoomorphic spout, that is twisted into a circlet on the shoulder with a bowl of fruit uppermost.



RED SIKRI SANDSTONE FOUR-ARMED GANESHA

Mathura, India
ca.7th/8th century
Height: 15.2cm

Seated in rajalilasana, his short trunk coiled clockwise. Damage to the hands prevents identification of his attributes except for the axe held in the raised left hand.

£500



TERRACOTTA FRAGMENTARY HEAD OF A MONKEY

Haryana or Uttar Pradesh
Gupta period, ca. 5th century
Height: 7.5cm

Depicting Hanuman or Sugriva from a Ramayana scene, painted with a white slip.

£500



GREY CHLORITE TUTELARY GODDESS

Kashmir
ca. 400
Height: 8.5cm

Seated in European style (*bhadrasana*) on a paneled throne, her feet resting on a wide foot stool concealed by the folds of her lower garment. She wears a bodice with crosshatch design and above this a short plain cape with pointed ends. She has multiple wristlets on both arms. The hair bulges out below a fillet with flattened topknot. She appears to hold a small goblet in her raised right hand. The other hand has the traces of what may have been a transmuted cornucopia, a break that extends from the broken-off hand to the back of the neck or shoulder. See plate 19 for the possible positioning of the vessel. The identification of the figure remains difficult owing to old damage, but enough detail is preserved to date the piece circa 400.

£2,500.



WHITE MARBLE MITHUNA FRAGMENT WITH FEMALE BUST

Turki Shahi dynasty
Afghanistan
7th/8th century
Height 19.5cm

Sculpted in the round, encircled by the left arm of the accompanying male deity, his hand showing on her left shoulder. She wears simple ornaments comprising a wide necklace of inverted cone motifs, large rosette ear-rings and a triangular three-leaf crown of abstract foliate design, with fillet of beads and rectangular cartouches, a line of curls shown below.

£2,500



GREYISH-GREEN ARCHED RELIEF WITH THE EIGHTEEN-ARMED DURGA

Nepal
ca.17th/19th century
Height 23cm

Slaying the buffalo demon, Mahishasura, whom she tramples underfoot. Her arms are fanned out in a circle holding attributes, the innermost being the trident with which she impales the demon, while the left grasps him by the hair. She wears an armoured breast plate, pleated skirt, a garland of severed heads and a five-leaf crown with remaining flag, originally, there were two. Below is a roaring lion confronting the demon in human form, who holds a sword and shield in his two hands to no avail. The panel is enclosed by a wide border with the nine Nava Durgas, and below is a scene with a pair of donors and peacocks, flanked by a lion to the left and a rat(?) to the right.

£8,500

Literature: The sculpture compares closely with a relief sculpture in Patan, in Nepal, published by S.L Nagar, *Mahishasuramardini in Art*, plate 76, 1988, Delhi, which is shown here for reference as figure 1. Nagar does not supply the size of the piece, but in his photograph, it is shown in situ set in a niche in the wall of a shrine, and appears to be larger and more detailed than the Digby example, of which it is probably the prototype.



There are no grounds for Nagar's dating of the piece in the twelfth century. An important indicator in this respect is the presence of flags in the head-dress, which is a late feature, and appears in the next lot, a pair of Nepalese painted book covers which dates from the seventeenth/eighteenth century. Our example is heavily worn through ritual ablutions that indicates it was under heavy worship in a household or public shrine. Nagar mistakenly gives the number of arms as being twenty rather than eighteen. A truncated version, which omits the Nava Durgas, is the small jangli version of this scene, which was offered in a recent sale in Paris by Cornete de Saint Cyr, June 2019, Collection Josette et Theo Schulmann, Lot 56.



Figure 1.

PAIR OF TANTRIC PAINTED WOOD BOOK COVERS
FROM A DEVIMAHATMYA MANUSCRIPT

<p>Nepal, ca. 17th/ 18th century Dimensions: 31 x 9cm</p>	<p>The Devimahatmya is a long hymn praising Durga Mahishasura-mardini who fights evil and is part of the Markandeya Purana. Each cover has a group of three deities. They are notable for their vivid colours outlined in ink, and vibrant textile design, in particular of the lower garments. One cover has a central sixteen-armed Ardhanareswara, who dances on a crouching bull and lion, to the rhythm of drums performed on the <i>mridangam</i>, by two dancing attendants, one of red colour trampling a bull, and one of blue, of fierce aspect, who tramples a nude female devouring entrails.</p> <p>The complementary cover has an eight-armed goddess in central position, seated on a prostrate white elephant, whose <i>vahana</i> and horizontal third eye indicates she is a form of Indrani. She is framed by a six-armed boar-headed female deity on her right side, her ferocious face in profile, seated on a buffalo <i>vahana</i>, who can be identified as Varahi. She holds a sword, fish, <i>ankusa</i> and shield in her four outer hands. On Indrani's left side is the emaciated six-armed Chamunda, who sits cross-legged astride the same prostrate female, here stretched out holding a bowl to catch errant drops of blood on the battlefield. Chamunda is of fierce demeanour and has round staring eyes. Her six arms are of skeletal form in which she carries a pair of fish (?), a sword, a shield and a trident. Two of the deities in this cover have a pair of flags in their head-dress, and a single flag when the face is in profile, as in the case of Varahi.</p> <p>See Guy, 1982, Guy, J. Exhibition catalogue, <i>Palm-leaf and Paper</i>, Melbourne, 1982. pls 17 for a similar treatment of Varahi and Chamunda on a single wood cover of four Matrikas of similar date and style.</p>
<p>£8,500</p>	





BRASS DURGA MAHISASURA-MARDINI GROUP

Deccan
ca. 13th/14th century
Height 11.3cm

Depicting the goddess four-armed, vanquishes the buffalo demon Mahishasura, in human form. Standing astride the demon she impales him with a trident in her right hand while her left hand grasps his hair, her outer hands hold sword and shield. On a stepped rectangular pedestal with a lion with raised paw on the left and on the opposite side the animal's severed head.

£1,800



GREEN CHLORITE YOGINI OR MOTHER GODDESS

Kashmir
5th /6th century
Height: 7cm

Seated in European style on an integral bench, incised with diamond pattern. Holding indistinct objects in slightly raised hands. The head with pointed ears appears to be that of a mule.

SOLD



BROWNISH STONE, FRAGMENTARY VISHNU

Nepal
8th/9th century
Height: 15.5cm

Standing in an upright pose. His remaining attribute, the mace, is held upright in his raised left hand. A sash can be seen crossing the knees and tied at the hips from where it falls down at either side. The hair is arranged in ringlets on the shoulders with globular ear-rings. The openwork halo is decorated with pearl design.

SOLD



CARVED WOOD BOOK COVER

Tibet
12th/13th century,
Dimensions: 42.5 x 11cm

With the five Tathagatas, seated with their particular mudras in a roundel framed by mythical animals and a bird facing left, viz. a deer looking backwards, a fleeing lion, sejant lion, and a peacock, each with canopy of scrolling branches.

£2,500



CARVED WOOD BOOK COVER

Tibet
12th/13th century
74 x 28.5cm

Extensively carved and decorated with red pigment and gold leaf. The central square panel with the Buddha, seated in *bhumisparshamudra* on an elaborate throne with columns of mythical animals and riders and elephants, the capitals in the form of *makaras*, whose tails are devoured by a khyung at the apex of the square arch with two Tibetan characters. The throne has dwarf columns with two lions confronting the Bodhi tree, the two side panels each with a peacock with scrolling tails. In a border of scrolling vine and a Kurtimukha mask.

£7,500



TRANSCENDENTAL FORM OF VISHNU

Kashmir
9th century,
Height: 23.6 cm

The deity stands in his usual pose of slight contrapposto with three ranks of three heads, the principal that of Vaikuntha Vishnu with lateral heads of lion and boar; then Maheshvara, known as Bhuteswara in Kashmir, the central Mahadeva head framed by Bhairava and Uma heads, and uppermost three similar heads, each with different treatment. Finally, crowning the triple heads is a seated figure with striated robe, which has lost its head, who is probably Hayagriva.

There are several groups of attendants, and attribute bearers. The principal hands of Vaikuntha Vishnu hold up the short stalk of a flowering lotus and a conch at waist level, each held by a secondary hand. This duplication of function is not otherwise encountered in Nepalese sculpture. The outer hands stretch down to the heads of Gadanari (left) and Cakraparusha (right), who both overlap the leaf pattern *vanamala* just below the knees. Gadanari is framed by a male attendant while Cakraparusha is framed by a female attendant. The outer diminutive kneeling figures are models of the donors. The various figures and weapons on the upper half of the relief are mostly defaced, and their meaning obscure, but amongst these the sun and moon symbols can be seen in the bulbous motifs held by the uppermost hands. It has an integral moulded pedestal with single row of lotus petals

£2,500



DARK GREY STONE RELIEF OF A SIX-ARMED MAHAKALA

Nepal
ca. 17th/18th century
Height: 15.5cm

Trampling a prostrate form of Ganesha, his inner hands hold a *kapala* and *katrika*, the outer four hands holding a bell (?), an *aksamala*, a trident and a noose. He has flaming hair, an and a garland of skulls, lotus petal pedestal, the aureole with flame outline.

£3,000



BLACK STONE GROUP OF JAMBALA IN YAB-YUM

Pala With his *shakti* on a lotus with seven globular pots.
North India or Tibet Both minimally ornamented, save for his elaborate
ca.12th century tiered conical helmet.
Height 10.6cm

£2,000



MINIATURE BRONZE SIX-ARMED GANAPATI DANCING

South India
12th/ 13th century
Height: 6.2cm

On a stepped pedestal with crouching rat.

£800



MINIATURE BRONZE GROUP OF A DEVI STANDING IN CONTRAPPOSTO

South India, ca With tall conical head-dress within an open arch with flamed
12th century, edge, flanked by two attendant with similar conical head-dress.
5.8cm

£800



FRAGMENTARY GREEN CHLORITE GROUP OF GAJALAKSMI

Kashmir
ca. 700
Height: 14.3cm

Pseudo- Hellenistic style Lakshmi seated on a lion holding a transmuted form of cornucopia in her left hand, her right hand holding a lotus below her raised knee, wearing a combination of striated garments in pseudo Hellenistic style, her striated hair is swept back and held by a plain fillet, a column on her proper left with single remaining elephant lustrating her. Set on a tall integral moulded pedestal.

£1,800



BRONZE GROUP OF UMA-MAHESVARA

Pala
11th century
Height: 12.2cm

Uma holding a mirror in her lower left hand, her right on her consort's shoulder. Siva cups her breast with his left hand, in his right is an upright trident. Seated on a footed stepped pedestal depicting diminutive figures of Ganesha and Kumara.

£4,000



BRONZE SYAMA TARA

Tibet
ca. 16th/17th century
Height 11cm

Two-armed seated in *lalitasana* on a constricted lotus, her hands in *varada* and *vitarka* mudra, holding the stems of lotuses blossoming at her shoulders. Extensively decorated with three-leaf crown tied with ribbons on both sides. Bottom with sealed brass plate.

£1,800



BRONZE AMITAYUS

Tibet
ca. 18th century
Height 10.8cm

Seated on a constricted lotus pedestal holding a vase on his lap. Extensively decorated with five-leaf crown, heavy traces of red pigment and some gilding. Bottom with sealed brass plate.

£1,800



BRONZE SEATED BUDDHA

Tibet
ca. 18th century
Height 10cm
In *bhumisparshamudra* seated on a constricted lotus
pedestal.
SOLD



BRASS, SEATED GANESHA

North India Holding his usual attributes in openwork arch.
14th/15th century
Height: 8.5cm
£250



BRONZE, GROUP DEPICTING FOUR-ARMED VISHNU

Kashmir
Utpala dynasty
9th /10th century
Height: 11cm

With the remaining personified weapon on his left,
Cakrapurusa, and bust of Prithvi between his ankles,
wearing his usual garments and ornaments, his two
right arms broken off.

£2,500



GREEN CHLORITE GROUP OF GAJALAKSMI

Karkota Dynasty
Kashmir
9th /10th century
Height: 14cm

In high relief, the Goddess seated in *lalitasana* on a throne with lion protomes in the corners. She holds the leafy stalk of a large lotus in her left hand that blossoms above her shoulder, which is modelled on a transmuted cornucopia. Her right hand holding the stalk of a short lotus facing frontally, against a plain *torana* with plain capitals surmounted by a pair of elephants lustrating the goddess with a single jar.

£4,500



COPPER ARCHED SECTION OF A VAISNAVA PRABHA

South India
ca 15th/16th century
29cm wide

Vishnu's weapons, the *cakra* and *sankha* supported by an elaborate mélange of mythical animals at the base, a wide plain band and parallel band of lotus petals divided by bold ribs curving up to a *kirtimukha* spewing gems above.

£850



SOAPSTONE STANDING BUDDHA

Probably north India
6th/7th century
Height: 9.8 cm

Soapstone standing figure of the Buddha, his robe worn in the Sarnath convention, with his left hand raised to his shoulder, the palm facing forward, holding the corner of his unpleated robe, which falls vertically to his ankles, its edges outlined in a pattern of alternating folds, the right hand lowered in *varadamudra*, the robe curving inwards towards the ankles. His stomach is creased horizontally with a slight bulge above. His facial features are typically Gupta, with a slight smile. His hair arranged in horizontal rows around a low *usnisa*. He has Gupta style long earlobes and his hairline is in a widows peak, the rows of curls following the line of the head.

£750



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