



Christopher Clarke Antiques

Dealers in Campaign Furniture
& Travel Items

Set of 4 Indian Transport Paintings - HEIC School

£950

REF:- 81172

Height: 12.5 cm (4 1/16")

Width: 16 cm (6 1/4")



©Christopher Clarke Antiques

Christopher Clarke Antiques Sheep Street Stow on the Wold Gloucestershire GL54 1JS England
+ 44 (0)1451 830476

<https://campaignfurniture.com/set-of-4-indian-transport-paintings-heic-school>

21/06/2021

Short Description

A set of 4 Company School gouache on mica paintings illustrating different forms of travel in India.

Two of the pictures each show a camel loaded with equipment to make a camp. The other two each show an elephant carrying a howdah in which sits a maharajah with an attendant with fly whisk behind. A mahut sits in front. Two further attendants or guards walk in front of the elephant. Mounted and framed. Painted by a Benares Indian East India Company School artist to be sold to Europeans living and travelling in India. Circa 1860.

Each Image size is given. Each frame is 10 1/4 x 11 1/4 inches.

The market for paintings on mica was popularised by the British in India. Previously it had been used by Indian artists to trace family paintings for preservation or for decorating marriage lanterns. However, the Europeans were fascinated by it and soon became the principal buyers. In the age before photography such pictures would give an insight to families at home of life in India and serve as a memory for those returning west. The Honourable East India Company encouraged such artists and sought to profit from their work which was broadly labelled Company School Painting. Mica was mined in Kordarmah to the north of Hazaribagh and was sent to artists in Benares, Patna and Murshidabad in the east. Trichinopoly artists would have used mica from Cuddapah in the south. The paintings from the south predominantly used orange-brown, yellow and arsenic green in their colour scheme whereas those from the east favoured red, pink and blue. By its nature, mica is fragile and it is common to see pictures with damaged edges. However, the clear, crystal like properties of the silicate give the paintings a wonderful quality.

More Information

Year	Circa 1870.
Medium	Gouache on mica
Origin	Probably from Benares.
Style	Company School
Exhibitions	Illuminating India
Condition	Frame is 10.25 by 11.15.