Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

Victorian Rosewood Pediment for the Order of the Star of India, Circa 1880

£375

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REF: 6580

Height: 38 cm (15")

Width: 125 cm (49.2")

Depth: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A finely carved rosewood pediment associated with the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, dating from circa 1880. Rich in material and ceremonial presence, this remarkable architectural fragment was likely made as the header to a roll of honour recording members or recipients of the Order, or possibly for display above the entrance to a chapel, institutional room, or other formal setting connected with imperial administration.

The form combines the gravitas of Victorian architectural carving with the visual language of one of Britain's most prestigious orders of chivalry. Founded in 1861, the Order of the Star of India recognised high-ranking figures associated with British India, including Indian rulers, statesmen, administrators, and military officers. Its insignia and symbolism were used in settings intended to convey hierarchy, service, and official ceremony.

Carved in richly coloured rosewood, the pediment has both decorative force and a strong sense of historical purpose. The depth of carving and the natural warmth of the timber give it an impressive presence, while its architectural scale suggests it was conceived as a prominent focal point rather than a domestic ornament. Whether originally surmounting an honours board or marking a ceremonial entrance, it would have formed part of a carefully constructed and highly formal interior.

Now offered as a sculptural object in its own right, the pediment would make an exceptional focal point in a library, entrance hall, collection room, or interior with an interest in Victorian design and colonial-era history. It is a rare and evocative survival, combining fine craftsmanship, institutional history, and the unmistakable visual drama of the late Victorian period.

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