



**The East Corner Company, Inc**  
Chinese Antiques and Fine Arts

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## ABOUT MING & QING FURNITURE

Classical Chinese furniture developed from ancient time. Fine lacquered wooden furniture had already appeared as early as the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD). In the Northern and Southern Dynasties (420 – 589), the Chinese began to change the habit of kneeling or sitting cross-legged on a platform to sitting with legs pendant on a stool. This gave rise to furniture of level height. Classical furniture reached its zenith in the Ming and Qing dynasties. Each age was marked by its own distinctive artistic style. Ming furniture is characterized by a simple and elegant structure with fluent lines and appealing proportions. Qing furniture in contrast is larger and more imposing with elaborate carving and inlaid decoration. These two types of furniture differed greatly in style but each reached a high level of artistic success and can claim a place in the history of world furniture.

## PIECE OF THE MONTH



### An Unusual Long Table, *Pingtouan*

With its apron-heads carved in peach-and-leaf motif representing longevity and prosperity, square legs with their front side slightly shaped in a concave way, double-stretchers between side legs, covered with early black lacquer, early to mid 19th century, Qing dynasty, Shanxi province  
*Jumu*, southern elmwood  
Size: 51.25" W x 20" D x 32.75" H



Detail of the spandrels

## SPECIAL SELECTION FOR YOUR COLLECTION & DECORATION IDEAS



### Small Cabinet with Display Top

Low cabinet with flat top for display, removable doors and shelf, three small drawers underneath the main storage, and carved apron with flower-scroll design extending to the front feet, typical style from Shaanxi province, 19th century, Qing dynasty.  
*Qiumu*, Chinese catalpa and pinewood  
Size: 33" W x 19.5" D x 41.5" H



### Side-Table Cabinet (*Er Meng*)

A typical style combines the space of a cabinet with the function of a side table for display. There are two drawers, lower storage and two finely carved long spandrels with flower design placed at the side corners providing extra support for the tabletop. Original reddish, black lacquer remains, 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Qing dynasty  
Size: 37.5" D x 48" W x 32.5" H



**Small Painted Tibetan Style Chest**

A unique Tibetan style side chest with two-level side-open doors and fenced display top, all front and top covered with hand painted auspicious symbols (umbrella, vase, flaming wheel, knot, dragon and lotus flower, etc.), mid 20th century Chinese cedar

Size: 23.75" W x 10" D x 34.75" H

**SPIRIT STONES OF CHINESE SCHOLARS**



Large Lingbi stone  
43.75" H **sold**

The collecting of Chinese scholar's stones, also known as spirit stones or, traditionally, 'strange stones' (*guaishi*), can be traced to at least the Tang dynasty (618-906), and probably originated much earlier, possibly as early as the Han dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD). Recently it has experienced a revival in China, and has become popular in the West. Well aware of the traditional Daoist belief that such strange stones embody the most refined 'spirit-energy' (*qi*) of which all things are made, most collectors have focused on stones that have the most dynamic inner energy and life, and which communicate this in their extraordinary textures and forms.

A survey of traditional literature on *guaishi* makes clear that the most prized stones were traditionally those with strange and bizarre shapes, suggestive of remote and sacred mountain peaks or of Daoist paradises. Stones were seen as fragments of the primordial energies that created the world. Much stone literature emphasizes the exotic appearance of the finest examples and suggests that these stones reflect the cosmic order inherent in the Dao.



White Taihu stone  
25.5" H **sold**



Reddish Taihu stone  
14.5" w, 14" H **sold**

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