



**No. 23**

**An unusual Duan Inkstone with carved Kui dragons**

Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)

The inkstone finely carved in the form of two overlapping circles. The first circle with a slight raised rim decorated with a key-fret border. The second circle forming the deep moon-shaped ink pool with a wide rim finely carved in low relief with two kui dragons and central shou- character.

Both circles of the base with raised rim decorated in low-relief with five bats (wu fu) flying amidst clouds. Wooden box and cover.

Five bats grouped together create the extremely auspicious and popular motif “five good fortunes” wu fu, longevity, wealth, health, love of virtue and natural death.

**L 7 1/2 in W 4 in**

清 夔龍日月端硯

