



**SHARON FITZSIMMONS**  
CHINESE ANTIQUE FURNITURE



## **Sale Price £1,900 (was £2,750) - Ming Style Painted Book Cabinet with Rural Idyll**

SHANXI PROVINCE, LATE C18TH

**DIMENSIONS:** W:76 D:42 H:88 (cm)

**REFERENCE:** C156

£1,900

A rare C18th cabinet with painted doors depicting a rural idyll, framed by symbolically fortuitous butterflies.

This idyll depicts a peaceful narrative of the Confucian ideal of learned, scholarly men enjoying the harmony of a stylised country retreat. A scholar is shown sitting in contemplation in a pagoda, in preparation for executing the supreme Chinese art form, a calligraphic poem. The wonderful blue clouds impart an almost ethereal feel to the overall imagery.

The large round decorative metal hinge plates, lock plates and decorative nail heads are original and add distinction to the piece. The metal pulls depict fish, symbolic of abundance and plenty. The lacquer is original and wonderfully cracked in parts.

The double base with low relief carving provides a delicate framework on which to show the piece at its best. The recessed upper base is decorated with three narrow "taohuan" panels, while the bottom base has a carved scrolling design.

