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GUY TOBIN

ITEM NUMBER
#21

GENERATED
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A Pair of Ebony Tripod Stands



PRICE
£8,000.00

PLACE OF ORIGIN
Galle District, Ceylon

PERIOD
Mid-19th century

MATERIAL
Solid ebony; marble tops

CONDITION
Old repairs to the carved and pierced frieze.

DESCRIPTION

Galle District, Ceylon, mid-19th century
Each in solid carved ebony with inset marble tops. Old repairs to the carved and pierced frieze.

These tables should probably be called 'teapoys' a Colonial Indian term derived from the Hindi 'tin' 'pai' meaning three-legged. These Indian tables were direct copies from European candle stands; a nice circular inspiration.

With their recessed stone tops, it could be argued that these were originally intended to be used as hookah stands (see attached image). From the collection of the Rjiksmuseum, there is also a late 18th century watercolour showing the 'King of Kandy' with an occasional table beside his chair. Not the same design but showing such tables were in use by the islands inhabitants as well as Europeans.