

Most Exalted Order of the Star of India carved pediment

£375



REF: 6580

Height: 38 cm (15")

Width: 125 cm (49.2")

Depth: 10 cm (3.9")

Description

A beautifully carved rosewood pediment associated with the Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, circa 1880. Most likely the header to a roll of honour of recipients of the order or possibly over a chapel entrance.

The Most Exalted Order of the Star of India, established in 1861 by Queen Victoria, was one of the British Empire's highest honours, recognising loyalty and service in India. It primarily celebrated Indian princes, British officials, and military leaders who played key roles in governing the Indian subcontinent during the colonial rule of the British Raj.

The order consisted of three classes: Knight Grand Commander (GCSI), Knight Commander (KCSI), and Companion (CSI). Its insignia featured a star with a light blue ribbon and a central emblem portraying Queen Victoria. Though prestigious, it excluded non-royal Indians from its highest ranks, reflecting colonial hierarchies.

After India gained independence in 1947, the order became obsolete, symbolising a bygone imperial era. Its legacy endures in history as a mark of colonial authority.