

Classical Chinese
Huanghuali Furniture
from the Haven Collection

DR CHU-PAK LAU



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FOREWORD

CURTIS EVARTS

That Hong Kong was a dynamic hub for the sale of antique classical hardwood furniture during the late 1980s and '90s remains a relatively fresh memory for those of us who were involved in the trade. It was a golden moment for treasure hunters and an era when numerous prominent collections were formed. What remained somewhat uncertain was precisely how much furniture was being discreetly gathered by individuals who were less inclined to make their collections available to the public. This is the case with the Hong Kong collection assembled by Dr Chu-Pak Lau, which has quietly developed over the last 20-plus years and only now has come to light.

Dr Lau's steadfast devotion to classical Chinese furniture matches the abundant enthusiasm and focused attention of an academic in search of discovery. The integration of selections from the collection into his beautifully decorated residence also reveals the sophisticated taste of a Jiangnan literati gentleman. Moreover, he is the rare type of collector who is genuinely interested in the academic study of furniture, and he has followed through with researching the history, use, placement, age and further details of the objects.

The field of Chinese furniture remains ripe for those who look with fresh eyes, and the quality of its scholarship becomes enriched by the breadth of intelligence that it entertains and encompasses. I sincerely welcome Dr Lau's enthusiastic contribution to the ongoing studies of classical hardwood furniture; moreover, I hope that it will inspire others to search for intrinsic value in traditional culture and the world of antiques.

Curtis Everts



Shanghai