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CHINESE ELM HORSESHOE-BACK ARMCHAIR WITH CURVED CREST RAIL, CIRCA 1880



$1,800

This Chinese armchair dates to circa 1880 and is constructed in elm, featuring the classic horseshoe-back (quanyi) form that has been a defining element of Chinese seating for centuries. Elegant yet restrained, the design balances sculptural curvature with a grounded, architectural structure.

The chair is distinguished by its continuous, rounded horseshoe crest rail, which sweeps down to form integrated arms terminating in softly rounded handholds. A tall, shaped splat rises from the seat to support the back, emphasizing verticality and providing visual balance against the broad, open curve of the rail. Slim vertical sinuous spindles reinforce the arms while maintaining an airy profile.

The seat is constructed with a solid elm panel set within a molded frame, raised on square legs joined by simple stretchers. The proportions are confident and upright, with a seat height consistent with traditional Chinese domestic seating of the late Qing period. The elm displays a warm, honey-toned patina with visible grain, knots, and surface variation that speak to both material quality and age.

Well suited for use as a desk chair, occasional armchair, or statement piece in a study or living space, this horseshoe-back chair exemplifies the enduring appeal of Chinese furniture design: functional, harmonious, and quietly expressive without excess ornament.

Height: 38.5 in (97.79 cm)

Width: 24.5 in (62.23 cm)

Depth: 17.5 in (44.45 cm)

Seat Height: 20.25 in (51.44 cm)

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