



PRODUCT NEWS

February 2020  
(2020-1)



THE WHITE SPOT  
PRODUCT NEWS

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– Limited Edition)



## PRODUCT NEWS

### THE IMPERIAL DRAGON PIPES

#### *THE IMPERIAL DRAGON*



The *Imperial Dragon* is a legendary, mythical creature in Chinese and East Asian culture.

It was the Emperors' of China personal symbol of imperial strength, power and authority.

During the *Yuan* dynasty (1271–1368), the two-horned five-clawed dragon was designated for use by the *Son of Heaven* or Emperor only, while the four-clawed dragon was used by princes and other nobles. Similarly, during the *Ming* (1368–1644) and *Qing* (1911–1912) dynasties, the five-clawed “*Long*” dragon was strictly reserved for use by the Emperor only.

Descriptions of Chinese dragons do differ, but often they are described to possess the head of a horse (or camel or crocodile), four legs, the tail of a snake, the scales of a carp, the horns of a deer, the claws of an eagle, the ears of a cow and they are often depicted with a white (or flaming) pearl in their claws or under their chin or in their mouth.

The ancient Chinese identified themselves as “Descendants of the dragon” as the Chinese dragon represented evolution from the ancestors and *qi* energy. Still today, excellent and outstanding people are sometimes compared or referred to as “dragons”.

During the *Qing* dynasty, the Azure-blue Dragon was featured on the first Chinese national flag.



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***THE LIMITED EDITION PIPES  
' THE IMPERIAL DRAGON '***



The *Imperial Dragon* pipes have been created and manufactured as limited edition pipes to inform about the importance of the *Imperial Dragon* to Chinese and East Asian history and culture.

The *Imperial Dragon* pipe is classic Billiard pipe in size group 4 (4103).

It is fitted with a precious metal & precious gemstones windshield in form of a remarkably detailed hand-sculptured Imperial Dragon and also is mounted with an engraved precious metal band.

The highly collectable *Imperial Dragon* pipes are presented in a prestigious leather-bound book and come with hand-signed limited edition certificates.

In terms of limited edition serial numbers, all numbers containing a digit “4” have been excluded and all number “1” pipes will remain in the White Spot archive in London and are not for sale.

These editions are strictly limited to world-wide only

- **7 pipes in Amber Root & 9ct yellow Gold & Sapphire Eyes** (“Limited Edition of 8”)
- **70 pipes in Bruyere & Sterling Silver & Ruby Eyes** (“Limited Edition of 88”)
- **70 pipes in Cumberland & Sterling Silver & Ruby Eyes** (“Limited Edition of 88”)
- **70 pipes in Shell Briar & Sterling Silver & Ruby Eyes** (“Limited Edition of 88”)

World-wide launch March/April 2020



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### **FEATURES**

### **KEY BENEFITS**

Subject	- Imperial Dragon symbol in Chinese and East Asian history and culture
Shape	- classic Billiard shape (4103) - best-selling White Spot shape
Size	Gp. 4 – medium to large size
Finishes	- Amber Root: smooth finish, orange colour, Vulcanite mouthpiece. Introduced in 1995  - Bruyere: smooth finish, mahogany colour, Vulcanite mouthpiece. First White Spot pipe finish, introduced in 1910  - Cumberland: sandblasted finish, brown colour, Cumberland mouthpiece. Introduced in 1979  - Shell Briar: sandblasted finish, black colour, Vulcanite mouthpiece. Shell Briar was the <i>first sandblasted pipe in the world</i> , invented by Alfred Dunhill in 1917
Mouthpieces	Taper Vulcanite or Cumberland mouthpieces, individually cut, shaped, and finished for each single pipe.
Dragon windshields	Hand-sculpted model, cast in precious metals and set with precious gemstones:  - Sterling Silver windshields: Weight approx. 30 grams, set with 2 red rubies (shape: round, diameter 2mm each, total weight 0.09ct)  - 9ct Yellow Gold windshields: Weight approx. 36 grams, set with 2 blue Sapphires (shape: round, diameter 2mm each, total weight 0.09ct)
Precious metal bands	10mm precious metal band, surface mounted, engraved with text “ <i>Imperial Dragon</i> ” & dragon symbols.  - Sterling Silver = 92.5% pure silver - 9ct Gold = 37.5% pure gold
Presentation book	- Prestigious leather bound book - Front image detail taken from an original





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robe of Chinese emperor, possibly from the *Qing* dynasty

Limited Edition

Exclusive & highly collectable.

As all edition numbers containing a digit '4' have been excluded, the actual quantity of Imperial Dragon pipes manufactured and the edition numbers stamped are not the same as explained below.

Also, all number "1" pipes are kept in our White Spot archive in London and are not for sale.

Bruyere, Cumberland and Shell Briar:

Although stamped up to "88 of 88", only **70 units each** have been manufactured, of which 69 units each will be offered for sale.

Amber Root:

Although stamped up to "8 of 8", only **7 units** have been manufactured, of which only 6 units will be offered for sale.

Certificate

Individually numbered and signed between 1 and 8 (or 88) (omitting all numbers containing a '4').

CODE	DESCRIPTION	AVAILABILITY
<b>DUDPZIMPDRAGONA</b>	Imperial Dragon Pipe Amber Root	<b>March/April 2020</b>
<b>DUDPZIMPDRAGONB</b>	Imperial Dragon Pipe Bruyere	<b>March/April 2020</b>
<b>DUDPZIMPDRAGONC</b>	Imperial Dragon Pipe Cumberland	<b>March/April 2020</b>
<b>DUDPZIMPDRAGONS</b>	Imperial Dragon Pipe Shell Briar	<b>March/April 2020</b>



# THE WHITE SPOT

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**Additional information about Imperial dragon robes, courtesy of Sotheby's.**

Chinese Works of Art

May 23, 2019

Dragon Robe Decoded  
By Sotheby's

At first glance, the Chinese imperial dragon robe looks just as it is named – a robe decorated with dragon designs. But there was a complex system behind its colours, designs and features that would seem indecipherable without an instruction manual. In particular, the Qing dynasty took the dragon robe to a whole new level, its vast complexity was unrivalled in the history of China. In the upcoming Chinese Art auction, a collection of Qing imperial robes are among the highlights, so we take this opportunity to briefly introduce a few features of the dragon robe.

**An Unprecedentedly Complex System**

The Qing court attire system was strict, complex and detailed, to a level that had exceeded all other dynasties throughout the history of China. The right to wear the dragon robe and its accessories was conferred by rank and entitlement. In 1748, Qianlong emperor (r. 1736-1795) ordered a review of court dress regulations to examine all previous Qing dress regulations and developed a comprehensive strategy for dress and the ceremonial trappings of the court. After a decade of work, the Qinding huangchao liqi tushi, ("The Regulations for the Ceremonial Paraphernalia of the [Qing] Dynasty") was completed in 1759.

**Many Shades of Power**

It is common knowledge in China that yellow robes were worn by emperors. Yet in the Qing dynasty, the use of yellow became stricter than ever, and a hierarchy of shades of yellow to differentiate rank within the imperial clan was instituted. Minghuang, or bright yellow, was reserved for the emperor and the empress dowager, the empress and first rank consorts in formal occasions, while Jinhuang, or golden yellow, Xinghuang, or apricot yellow—usually a shade of orange—, Xiangse, or incense color—usually a slightly greenish yellow shade, Qiuxiangse — usually a shade of brown or plum— were worn by imperial family of various levels. Lower ranking nobles and all others wore robes with blue grounds.

Nevertheless, the emperor did also wear other colours such as blue, red and white for different worshipping ceremonies, and he would wear clothing of various colours when outside of his official duties.

**Clue is in the Claws**





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Dragon insignia at the front and back of the robe were assigned to members of the imperial family according to their status. Dragons with five-claws called “long” were used exclusively for the robes and badges of the emperor. They outranked the five-clawed dragons called “mang”, which were identical in appearance to the long dragon and only distinguished by name. These were assigned to the emperor’s sons, imperial princes of the first rank and his sons, and imperial princes of the second rank. The four-clawed mang dragon was assigned to the emperor’s grandsons, great-grandsons, and great-great-grandsons, also to imperial princes of the third rank down to nobles of the seventh rank. Nobles of the eighth and ninth rank and below, as well as court officials did not wear dragon badges, although their longpao were invariably decorated with five-clawed “mang.”

In addition, dragon robes worn by the emperor were ornamented with shier zhangwen, or The Twelve Ancient Symbols of Imperial Authority, symbolising various virtues displayed by the emperor. Only the emperor’s dragon robe would be decorated with all twelve symbols, whilst the robes of other officials would be decorated with some of them.

The Twelve Ancient Symbols of Imperial Authority date back to the Zhou dynasty or before, and therefore an important symbol in Han Chinese traditions. The Qing dynasty, founded by the Manchus, an ethnic minority, had retained certain traditional features reflecting unique Manchu customs, such as a slim-fitting body, narrow sleeves, hoof-shaped cuffs, flared collars and the lavish use of animal fur. A range of conspicuously displayed accessories further stressed Manchu heritage as horse riding conquerors. Among them, a hat, a surcoat, flaring collar, necklace and the group of items suspended from a chaodai, or court belt, that included pairs of drawstring pouches and ceremonial kerchiefs, as well as a knife, a flint and a pair of chopsticks.

In a way, the Qing dragon robes embodied elements of both the Han culture (such as The Twelve Ancient Symbols of Imperial Authority) and their Manchu heritage. The study of it may offer fascinating insights into how an ethnic minority established their power in China, as they went on to become one of the most powerful dynasties China had ever seen.

Please see the full article (with images) in following link:

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/articles/dragon-robe-decoded>