Rare Treat

By master carver Peter Calvesbert
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Peter says that Scotland has gone panda mad, with Edinburgh Zoo welcoming Yang Guang (Sunlight) and Tian Tian (Sweetie). With webcams, you can watch these wonderful creatures from the comfort of your home, but in true British style, Peter reports that the cameras are turned off during the brief two day mating season. The first “real” pandas Peter saw were Lun Lun and Yang Yang at the Atlanta Zoo. He recalls that they looked like big soft toys rather than living creatures. The Atlanta pandas have bred successfully, with three cubs named Mei Lan, Xi Lan and Po. The interior of Peter’s panda box figurine shows the estimated numbers in the wild (1600) and their classification (endangered).