

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **RENAISSANCE GERMAN FINELY TURNED BLOND RHINOCEROS HORN VESSEL**

A VERY LARGE RENAISSANCE GERMAN FINELY TURNED BLOND RHINOCEROS HORN VESSEL  
SMOOTH SILKY GOLDEN PATINA, AGE CRACKS TO ONE SIDE

CIRCA 1600

SIZE: 7CM HIGH, 15.5CM DIA – 3 INS HIGH, 6¼ INS DIA

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 12, ITEM NO. 57, FOR A SMALLER TURNED RHINOCEROS HORN VESSEL AND  
CATALOGUE NO. 9, ITEM NO. 12, FOR ANOTHER THREE 18TH CENTURY RHINOCEROS HORN VESSELS  
CF: ROYAL DANISH KUNSTKAMMER COLLECTION, COPENHAGEN, NATIONAL MUSEUM D91 AND D93 FOR SIMILAR  
EXAMPLES

## **LITERATURE**

IN 1515 THE FIRST LIVING ONE HORNED RHINOCEROS WAS BROUGHT TO EUROPE FROM INDIA AS A GIFT FOR KING  
MANUEL OF PORTUGAL A PASSIONATE COLLECTOR OF THE EXOTIC. IT CREATED A SENSATION. THEN IT SOON BECAME  
THE FASHION AMONGST ROYALTY IN THE COURTS OF 17TH CENTURY EUROPE TO DRINK WINE FROM RHINOCEROS  
HORN VESSELS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS BELIEVED TO MAGICALLY DETECT POISON, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT WAS  
CONSIDERED A POWERFUL APHRODISIAC. THIS BELIEF HAD ALSO BEEN PREVALENT AMONGST THE RULERS OF THE  
MIDDLE AND FAR EAST AND INDIA FOR MANY DECADES. BABUR (REIGNED 1526-1530), THE FOUNDER OF THE MUGHAL  
DYNASTY, ONCE OWNED THE RHINOCEROS HORN DRINKING VESSEL IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM THAT CAME FROM THE  
COLLECTION OF SIR HANS SLOANE. RUDOLF II OF PRAGUE (1552-1612) COLLECTED THIRTEEN COSTLY TURNED RHINO  
HORN VESSELS DISPLAYING THEM IN HIS PRIVATE KUNSTKAMMER. HE BELIEVED THEM TO HAVE AMULETIC PROPERTIES  
AND THE ABILITY TO CURE HIS INCREASING MELANCHOLIA

THIS BOWL WAS TURNED FROM ONE EXCEPTIONALLY MASSIVE RHINOCEROS HORN. THE SMOOTH WALLS SUGGEST  
LONG AND SUSTAINED USE.