Finch & Co



OTTOMAN TURKISH SHERBET SPOON

A FINE OTTOMAN TURKISH SHERBET SPOON WITH A MOTHER OF PEARL SHELL BOWL THE RELIEF CARVED STEM OF SHELL AND CORAL SURMOUNTED BY A RED CORAL BRANCH FINIAL

LATE 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 23.5CM LONG, 6.5CM WIDE – 9¼ INS LONG, 2½ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE OTTOMANS LIKED USING MULTIPLE MATERIALS IN COMBINATION AND THE CRAFTSMEN AT THE TOPKAPI PALACE PRODUCED MANY LUXURY ITEMS USING EXOTIC MATERIALS FROM AROUND THE WORLD. ARTISTS, ARCHITECTS AND CRAFTSMEN ENGAGED IN ALL THE VARIOUS DECORATIVE ARTS WERE EMPLOYED WITHIN THE GROUNDS OF THE PALACE. RATHER THAN RELYING ON PLACING ORDERS WITH INDEPENDENT MASTERS, THE OTTOMANS KEPT CO-OPTING THE BEST ARTISTS THEY COULD FIND INTO THEIR OWN PALACE WORKSHOPS. RECORDS SHOW THAT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 16TH CENTURY OVER 360 ARTISANS WERE EMPLOYED AND THAT BY THE END OF THE CENTURY THIS NUMBER HAD RISEN TO OVER 1500 CRAFTSMEN, ALL ON THE PAYROLL OF THE PALACE, BUT BY THE END OF THE 18TH CENTURY THEIR NUMBER HAD BEEN CONSIDERABLY REDUCED TO A MERE 186.