Finch & Co



EROTIC GERMAN CARVED COQUILLA NUT AND IVORY POCKET SNUFF BOX

AN EROTIC GERMAN CARVED COQUILLA NUT AND IVORY POCKET SNUFF BOX
THE TWO COQUILLA PANELS DECORATED WITH SCENES OF SEXUAL ACTIVITY THE IVORY MIDDLE BAND CARVED WITH ACANTHUS LEAVES AND TWO MASK HEADS
MID 17TH CENTURY
SIZE: 5CM HIGH, 4CM WIDE, 3.5CM DEEP – 2 INS HIGH, 1½ INS WIDE, 1¼ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

COQUILLA NUTS WERE FIRST SEEN IN EUROPE IN THE MID 16TH CENTURY AND WERE VERY POPULAR FOR CARVING SMALL OBJECTS. THEY ARE THE FRUIT OF THE 'ATTALEA FUNIFERA' PALM TREE, WHICH GROWS EXTENSIVELY ALONG THE EASTERN SIDE OF SOUTH AMERICA. WHEN FRESHLY COLLECTED THEY ARE SOFT AND PLIABLE TO CARVE, AND THE OILY NATURE OF THE NUT MAKES IT IDEAL FOR KEEPING SNUFF IN GOOD CONDITION, PREVENTING IT FROM DRYING OUT.