Finch & Co



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A FINE RARE PORTUGUESE MACAO CARVED IVORY DEVOTIONAL PLAQUE DEPICTING ST JEROME KNEELING BEFORE CHRIST CRUCIFIED GRIPPING THE CROSS IN ONE HAND HOLDING A STONE IN THE OTHER SYMBOLIC OF HIS ASCETICISM HIS HANDS AND FEET WITH THE STIGMATA A SIGN OF HIS PASSIONATE CHRISTIAN DEVOTION HIS CARDINAL'S HAT AND ROBE HANGING IN THE TREE GOD THE FATHER IN THE CLOUDS ABOVE A LION AT THE SAINT'S FEET ABOVE HIM TWO MEDIEVAL CHURCH TOWERS

THE SCENE PROBABLY BASED ON A EUROPEAN ENGRAVING

PORTUGUESE MACAO

MID 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 12CM HIGH, 8.5CM WIDE, 1CM DEEP - 4¾ INS HIGH, 3¼ INS WIDE, ½ INS DEEP

IVORY ACT 2018: A CERTIFICATE FOR A PRE-1918 ITEM OF OUTSTANDINGLY HIGH ARTISTIC, CULTURAL OR HISTORICAL VALUE. CERTIFICATE NUMBER: URR59K10 DATE: 01/06/2023

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LITERATURE

IN 374 A.D ST JEROME BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL IN ANTIOCH AND TWO OF HIS TRAVELLING COMPANIONS DIED. IN THIS STATE HE DREAMT THAT HE APPEARED BEFORE GOD'S JUDGEMENT SEAT AND WAS CONDEMNED FOR BEING A CICERONIAN RATHER THAN A CHRISTIAN. HE TOOK THIS EXPERIENCE VERY SERIOUSLY AND BECAME A HERMIT IN THE DESERT OF CHALCIS IN SYRIA FOR FIVE YEARS. HE GAVE UP THE CLASSICS HE KNEW AND LOVED AND LEARNT HEBREW IN ORDER TO STUDY SCRIPTURE. PROFICIENT IN BOTH GREEK AND HEBREW, HE WENT ON TO COMPLETE THE ENORMOUS TASK OF PRODUCING A STANDARD LATIN TEXT OF THE BIBLE WHICH HE REVISED ACCORDING TO THE MEANING OF THE ORIGINAL TEXTS. HE THEN BEGAN TO TRANSLATE THE GOSPELS AND THE PSALTER AND OVER TIME PRODUCED ALL, OR NEARLY ALL, OF THE BIBLE IN WHAT BECAME KNOWN AS THE 'VULGATE' VERSION.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION OF THE BERKELEY FAMILY SPETCHLEY PARK WORCESTERSHIRE CATALOGUED IN A 1949 INVENTORY AS 'A CARVED PANEL (4 7/8" X 3 ½") OF ST JEROME KEPT IN THE STRONG ROOM'

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