Finch & Co



A LARGE BYZANTINE CARVED MARBLE FIGURE OF AN APOSTLE

A FINE AND LARGE BYZANTINE CARVED MARBLE FIGURE OF AN APOSTLE SCULPTED FROM A ROMAN MARBLE LINTEL

THE STANDING FIGURE HOLDING A BOOK UNDER HIS LEFT ARM WITH HIS WEIGHT ALSO ON HIS LEFT LEG, CLOTHED IN A FULL LENGTH TUNIC, TIED ABOVE HIS NAVEL

THE PROTRUDING FEET SHOWN WEARING SANDALS OF A VERY SIMPLE LEATHER 'CROSS DESIGN'

THE FIGURE HAS BEEN CARVED ALMOST IN 'THE ROUND' HOWEVER THE EXPOSED REVERSE REVEALS A ROMAN HORIZONTAL 'LINTEL' WITH GEOMETRIC CARVED DESIGN

MARBLE

ITALY

9TH - 11TH CENTURY AD

SIZE: 98CM HIGH, 36CM WIDE, 19CM DEEP - 38½ INS HIGH, 14⅛ INS WIDE, 7½ INS DEEP

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LITERATURE

THE BYZANTINE EMPIRE, OR EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE (BYZANTIUM), WAS A CONTINUATION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, WITH ITS CAPITAL IN CONSTANTINOPLE. THE RE-USE OF ANCIENT ROMAN MARBLE, ESPECIALLY ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTS, WAS A STANDARD PRACTICE IN MANY CULTURES, MARBLE WAS AN EXPENSIVE MATERIAL TO OBTAIN, THUS RE-CARVING A LARGER ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENT WAS BOTH A PRACTICAL AND ECONOMIC EXERCISE. THE PRESENT FIGURE PROBABLY STOOD WITH A GROUP OF APOSTLES WITHIN A SHRINE OR EARLY BYZANTINE CHURCH.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE DUTCH COLLECTION, 1990’S

EX PRIVATE UK COLLECTION