Finch & Co



**A FINE PAIR BRONZE CHARIOT FITTINGS / HANDLES**

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BRONZE

NORTHEASTERN CHINA / SOUTHEASTERN INNER MONGOLIA (SINO SIBERIAN)

5TH CENTURY BC

SIZE: 14.5CM HIGH - 5¾ INS HIGH (EACH) / 26CM HIGH - 10¼ INS HIGH (EACH WITH BASES)

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**LITERATURE**

DEPICTING THREE BOARS COPULATING IN A STACK, THE FINELY DETAILED, THINLY CAST 'FITTINGS' OR HANDLES ARE INCREDIBLY RARE. BOTH HANDLES RETAIN A DARK BROWN / DARK GREEN PATINA, WITH A SHINY SURFACE.

REPRESENTATIONS OF COPULATING ANIMALS APPEAR PRIMARILY IN THE ART OF THE NON-CHINESE PEOPLES OF SOUTHEASTERN INNER MONGOLIA AND NORTHEASTERN CHINA. THE ANIMALS PARTICIPATING IN THESE MATING SCENES ALL BELONG TO WILD RATHER THAN DOMESTICATED SPECIES, SUGGESTING THAT AN INCREASE IN THE WILD POPULATION WAS A MAJOR CONCERN FOR THE HUNTERS IN THOSE REGIONS. RELATED SCENES RARELY OCCUR ON ARTEFACTS FOUND WEST OF THE TAIHANG MOUNTAINS.

FOR A SIMILAR SINGLE CHARIOT FITTING WITH ONLY TWO BOARS COPULATING, WHICH IS NOW IN THE SACKLER COLLECTION, SEE: ALFRED SALMONY; SINO-SIBERIAN ART IN THE COLLECTION OF C.T. LOO, PUBLISHED IN 1933.

**PROVENANCE**

EX PRIVATE LONDON COLLECTION