Finch & Co

**A FINE SCULPTURE DEPICTING THE FLAGELLATION OF CHRIST**

A FINE SCULPTURE DEPICTING THE FLAGELLATION OF CHRIST

BRONZE, WOOD, SILVER

ITALY

EARLY 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 37CM HIGH, 38CM WIDE, 23.5CM DEEP - 14½ INS HIGH, 15 INS WIDE, 9¾ INS DEEP

A FINE SCULPTURE DEPICTING THE FLAGELLATION OF CHRIST

BRONZE, WOOD, SILVER

ITALY

EARLY 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 37CM HIGH, 38CM WIDE, 23.5CM DEEP - 14½ INS HIGH, 15 INS WIDE, 9¾ INS DEEP

**LITERATURE**

AFTER THE FLAGELLATION, A COHORT OF SOLDIERS GATHERED AROUND CHRIST IN PILATE'S HEADQUARTERS, STRIPPED HIM, PUT A PURPLE ROBE AROUND HIS SHOULDERS, A TWISTED CROWN OF THORNS ON HIS HEAD AND A REED IN IMITATION OF A SCEPTRE IN HIS HAND. THEY KNELT BEFORE HIM AND CRIED, 'HAIL, KING OF THE JEWS' THEN LED HIM AWAY TO BE CRUCIFIED. CARVED WITH A SCENE FROM CHRIST'S PASSION, THE PANEL WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A FOCUS FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION AND MAY HAVE BEEN USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH A SET TEXT SUCH AS THE 'VIA CRUCIS' OR STATIONS OF THE CROSS, A DEVOTION WHICH COMPRISES FOURTEEN IMAGES FROM THE PASSION BEFORE WHICH PRAYERS AND PASSAGES OF THE GOSPELS ARE RECITED DURING HOLY WEEK.

THE CROWN OF THORNS IS A PARODY OF THE CROWN OF ROSES THAT THE ROMAN EMPEROR WORE AT FESTIVALS, AND IS PORTRAYED AS A CIRCULAR WOVEN RING. THE SOLDIERS BEING RECORDED AS HAVING TWISTED THORNS INTO A

CROWN. TOGETHER WITH THE CROSS, NAILS AND WHIP, IT IS A POTENT SYMBOL OF GOOD FRIDAY.

**PROVENANCE**

CARLO GAETANO STAMPA (1667 - 1742), CARDINAL AND ARCHBISHOP OF MILAN

SOTHEBY'S, LONDON, A COLLECTION OF RENAISSANCE BRONZES, PROPERTY OF A GENTLEMAN, 30 JUNE 1969, LOT 63

SOTHEBY'S, LONDON, EUROPEAN WORKS OF ART, 4 JULY 1984, LOT 105

LITERATURE:

V. GOLZIO, 'LO 'STUDIO' DI ERCOLE FERRATA', ARCHIVI, II, (1935)

J. MONTAGU, 'A FLAGELLATION GROUP: ALGARDI OR DU QUESNOY?' BULLETIN DES MUSÉES ROYAUX D'ART ET D'HISTOIRE, (1966 - 7) PP. 153 - 193

M. HEIMBURGER RAVALLI, 'ALESSANDRO ALGARDI SCULTORE', (ROME – 1973)

G.P. BELLORI, 'LE VITE DE' PITTORI, SCOLTORI E ARCHITETTI MODERNI', E. BOREA (ED.) (TURIN – 1976)