

Finch & C^o



A FINE GERMAN TURNED AND FACETED SERPENTINE STONE TOBACCO JAR AND COVER

A FINE GERMAN TURNED AND FACETED SERPENTINE STONE TOBACCO JAR AND COVER
WITH RING HANDLE, SERPENTINE AND SILVER

CIRCA 1760 – 1780

SIZE: 13.5CM HIGH, 11CM DIA – 5¼ INS HIGH, 4¼ INS DIA

LITERATURE

SERPENTINE IS SO NAMED BECAUSE OF THE ANCIENT BELIEF IN ITS EFFECTIVE PROTECTION AGAINST SNAKE BITES. DURING THE RENAISSANCE INGENUOUS WAYS WERE INVENTED FOR CRAFTING BEAUTIFUL MINERALS INTO OBJECTS FOR THE PLEASURE OF THE COLLECTOR. ANSELMBOETHIUS DE BOODT IN 1609 DECLARED IN HIS GEMMARUM ET LAPIDUM HISTORIA 'THE EMPEROR (RUDOLF II) IS A LOVER OF STONES NOT SIMPLY IN ORDER THAT HE MAY THEREBY AUGMENT HIS DIGNITY AND MAJESTY, BUT SO THAT IN THEM THE EXCELLENCE OF GOD MAY BE CONTEMPLATED &...'

FOR 350 YEARS LAPIDARY WAS A ROYAL PURSUIT, AND BY THE 18TH CENTURY TURNING WAS SOMETHING OF AN OBSESSION FOR MANY WEALTHY COLLECTORS EACH VYING WITH THE OTHER TO MECHANICALLY PRODUCE ASTOUNDING WORKS OF ART IN STONE OR IVORY.