

Finch & C^o



TWO FINELY ENGRAVED NETHERLANDISH IVORY PORTRAIT ROUNDELS DEPICTING NOBLES BOTH SIGNED: 'NACHTEGL Æ'.

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THE COURTIER IN HIS CAP INSCRIBED 'GR.Æ DI.Ä DIII.D:MERDE.GRA.Æ V. HOL.T ZEL.T E11.VRI.S'

THE KNIGHT IN ARMOUR INSCRIBED AROUND THE BORDER 'GAAFF AARN.Æ DIII GRAAF. V. HOLLAN ZEEL.EÄÄ VRIES'

PERHAPS MADE AS PART OF A SET TO DECORATE A TABLE CABINET

LATE 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 5.5CM DIA – 2¼ INS DIA

LITERATURE

THE CONCERN FOR PORTRAYING THE INDIVIDUAL FOR POSTERITY WAS INTRODUCED IN THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE AS A REVIVAL OF THE ANCIENT ROMAN TRADITION OF SCULPTURE, SUCH AS THE MARBLE BUST AND THE MEDALLIC IMAGE IN GOLD, SILVER, OR BRONZE. BY THE 17TH CENTURY THE USE OF IVORY FOR PORTRAITURE HAD BECOME WIDESPREAD.

THE COMPACT SURFACE GAVE A SMOOTH GLOSSY FINISH AND THE CREAMY COLOUR UNCANNILY RESEMBLED PALE HUMAN SKIN.