

Finch & C^o



RARE INDONESIAN CENTRAL JAVANESE ENCRUSTED GOLD AND GEM SET SARONG HOOK BELT HOOK

A RARE INDONESIAN CENTRAL JAVANESE ENCRUSTED GOLD AND GEM SET SARONG HOOK BELT HOOK USED BY ROYAL PRINCES UPON COMING OF AGE TO KEEP THE GARMENT AWAY FROM A CIRCUMCISION WOUND

THE HEAD OF THE HINDU MYTHICAL BIRD 'GARUDA' SET WITH SIX DIAMONDS AND A RUBY

17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 7CM HIGH, 2CM WIDE, 4.5CM DEEP - 2¾ INS HIGH, ¾ INS WIDE, 1¾ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

INDONESIA IS THE FIFTH MOST POPULATED COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WITH AN ANCIENT AND RICH CULTURE, BUT ITS ART REMAINS REMARKABLY LITTLE KNOWN IN THE WEST. THE KRIS IS THE MOST RECOGNISABLE OF ALL OBJECTS AND IT EMBODIES THE MYTHOLOGICAL, SPIRITUAL, ARTISTIC AND TECHNICAL IDEALS OF INDONESIAN SOCIETY AND HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO A UNIQUE DEGREE IN THE ARCHIPELAGO. A JAVANESE PROVERB LISTS THE FIVE THINGS ESSENTIAL TO A MAN'S HAPPINESS: 'WISMA' (HOUSE), 'WANITA' (WOMAN), 'KUKILA' (SINGING BIRD), 'TUROĀ`GGA' (HORSE) AND 'CURIGA' (KRIS). NO OTHER OBJECT IS MORE ENSHRINED IN MYTHOLOGY, STIMULATES MORE INTEREST OR IS HELD IN SUCH ESTEEM AND AWE.

THIS GOLD ENCRUSTED BELT HOOK WAS PROBABLY MADE TO HOLD A KRIS AND IS DECORATED WITH GARUDA THE GOLDEN SUN BIRD, THE ENEMY OF ALL SERPENTS AND THE VEHICLE OF THE HINDU DEITY VISHNU.