Finch & Co



A LARGE AND RARE SABEAN, ANCIENT SOUTH ARABIAN ALABASTER FIGURE OF A PRIEST

THESE ANCIENT STYLISED ALABASTER SCULPTURES OF PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS ARE A DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF SOUTH ARABIAN ART . THIS FIGURE MOST PROBABLY REPRESENTS AN IMPORTANT PRIVATE INDIVIDUAL OR A PRIEST RATHER THAN A ROYAL FIGURE , AND THE SCULPTURE MAY HAVE BEEN SET UP INSIDE HIS TOMB .
ACTING AS FUNERARY STELE THESE SCULPTURE HAD WHITE SHELL OR COLOURED STONE INLAYS IN THE EYE SOCKETS , AND WERE ORIGINALLY SET INTO NICHES IN LARGE LIMESTONE BLOCKS THAT WERE INSCRIBED WITH THE NAME OF THE DECEASED .

LITERATURE

FOR A VERY SIMILAR EXAMPLE SEE BRITISH MUSEUM NO. : ANE 2002-1-14,4. PRESENTED BY JONATHAN HASSELL