

Finch & C^o



CEREMONIAL TIBETAN HUMAN THIGH BONE TRUMPET 'KANG-LING'

CEREMONIAL TIBETAN HUMAN THIGH BONE TRUMPET 'KANG-LING' , WITH OLD VELLUM LABEL READING : 'KANG-DHUNG (THIBETAN) KONG-LING (LIEPCHA) . MOUNTED WITH TURQUOISE AND CONDYLES COVERED WITH HUMAN SKIN . FROM THE LAMA OF LOPCHU.' ON REVERSE 'I HEARD HIM BLOWING A SIMILAR HORN ACROSS THE VALLEY AT LIEL AT THE FUNERAL SITES OF A LOCAL BUDDHIST . MARCH 1905 , APRIL 1905'
MID 19 TH CENTURY

LITERATURE

THE PREPARATION OF THESE BUDDHIST TRUMPETS IS ACCOMPANIED BY ELABORATE INCANTATION AND RITUAL . BUDDHISTS BELIEVE THAT THEY HARNESS THE ENERGY OF THE WIND BY BLOWING TRUMPETS WHICH THEN CALL ON , AND WARN THE SPIRITS OF THE IMPENDING CEREMONIALS . THESE TRUMPETS ARE USED IN MANY RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES BUT ARE USED ESPECIALLY FOR EXORCISING DEMONS , AND THE HUMAN BONE IS INTENDED TO REMIND BOTH THE PLAYER AND LISTENER OF HIS OWN IMPERMANENCE AND TRANSIENT EXISTENCE .