

Finch & C^o



A ROMAN MARBLE RELIEF OF TWO SNAKES HEADS

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1 ST CENTURY AD

SIZE : 4 CM HIGH , 10 CM WIDE - 1½ INS HIGH , 4 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE HEAD OF MEDUSA IS REPRESENTED IN WORKS OF ART WITH A COUNTENANCE OF TOUCHING BEAUTY AND A WEALTH OF HAIR WREATHED WITH SNAKES . MYTHOLOGY STATES THAT SHE HAD BEEN A FAIR MAIDEN WHOSE LUXURIANT HAIR HAD BEEN TURNED BY ATHENE INTO SNAKES IN REVENGE FOR THE DESECRATION OF HER SANCTUARY . HER HEAD WAS CUT OFF BY PERSEUS AND WAS AFTER REGARDED AS A MEANS OF PROTECTION AGAINST ENCHANTMENT EITHER BY WORD OR DEED , AND THE SNAKE BECAME EMPLOYED AS A POWERFUL AMULET OFTEN CARVED ON GREEK AND ROMAN DECORATIVE FURNITURE AND ORNAMENTS .