

Finch & C^o



A FINE CHINESE IVORY BRUSH POT WITH A CALLIGRAPHIC INSCRIPTION TO ONE SIDE

A FINE CHINESE IVORY BRUSH POT WITH A CALLIGRAPHIC INSCRIPTION TO ONE SIDE . A SCHOLARS OBJECT

LATE MING DYNASTY 16 TH – 17 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 8 CM HIGH , 5 CM DIA – 3¼ INS HIGH , 2 INS DIA

LITERATURE

THE BRUSH POT , KNOWN IN CHINESE AS 'BITONG' , GRADUALLY SUPPLANTED OTHER METHODS OF STORING SCHOLARS WRITING BRUSHES FROM THE MID 16 TH CENTURY AND IS FOUND IN ALL THE DIFFERENT MATERIALS OF CERAMIC , LACQUER , JADE , BAMBOO AND IVORY USED BY THE MING AND QING DYNASTY CRAFTSMEN . HOWEVER , BAMBOO AND IVORY WITH THEIR NATURAL CIRCULAR SECTIONS ARE THE MOST OBVIOUS MATERIALS FOR MAKING A BRUSH POT . LINES OF POETRY FREQUENTLY FORM PART OF THE DECORATIVE SCHEME ON CHINESE SCHOLARS OBJECTS AND ARE OFTEN THE MAIN MOTIF . THE SUBJECT OF THE POEM , MEANT TO INSPIRE THE SCHOLAR TO GREATER WORKS , IS USUALLY RELATED TO THE OBJECT ITSELF , AND IN THIS WAY THE POEM BECOMES AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE OBJECT AND NOT JUST MERE DECORATION .