Finch & Co



10 An unusual and finely carved ivory Indian chess piece

Size: Sens high a 2.5cm wide a 3.5cm deep

Ches is suige; us other game of such complexity has established leaff in an many different extrares an electronics.

of games in which he established beyond should the facts implicit in other Arabic sources that them originated is holia and steen tracefled by way of Persia and the Arab works to Wastern Europe. However right up to the rend of the 18th century the arcane issues of the origins of the early game seemed a preside increase consistent. With aggressive arguments for and against the Persians or the Bullan Holista as the sur-

incretors of the chess game.

Even today there are claims that the historical chess of 7th Century India was directly descended from a vita

However, clear most probably originated in Northern India as a Hindu game in instantion of warfare, it is more probable that is a game of unitary equation. Notiny did the Arable legacine about clear military probables. Notiny did the Arable legacine about clear whose emiliary publishes meanings. The game was regarded as a training or proparation for war and thus was definable in a facilities of the contract of

This Kadoniri finely curred fency chess piece is representative of a Queen riding in her charies

AN UNSUAL AND FINELY CARVED IVORY INDIAN CHESS PIECE

AN UNSUAL AND FINELY CARVED IVORY INDIAN CHESS PIECE 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 6CMHIGH X2.5 CMWDE X3.5 CMDEEP

LITERATURE

CHESS IS UNIQUE, NO OTHER GAME OF SUCH COMPLEXITY HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF IN SO MANY DIFFERENT CULTURES AND CIMIZATIONS.

THOMAS HYDE WAS CHIEF LIBRARIAN OF THE BODELIAN LIBRARY FROM 1665 TO 1701 AND WROTE A BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF GAVES IN WHICH HE ESTABLISHED BEYOND DOUBT THE FACTS IMPLICIT IN OLDER ARABIC SOURCES THAT CHESS ORIGINATED IN INDIA AND THEN TRAVELLED BY WAY OF PERSIA AND THE ARAB WORLD TO WESTERN EUROPE. HOWEVER RIGHT UP TO THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY THE ARCANE ISSUES OF THE ORIGINS OF THE EARLY GAVE SEEMED TO PROVOKE INTENSE EMOTIONS. WITH AGGRESIVE ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST THE PERSIANS OR THE INDIAN HINDUS AS THE TRUE INVENTORS OF THE CHESS GAVE.

EVEN TODAY THERE ARE CLAIMS THAT THE HISTORICAL CHESS OF 7TH CENTURY INDIA WAS DIRECTLY DESCENDED FROM A RITUAL OR DIMNATORY GAME, WITH A REVIVAL OF THE NOTION THAT ALL BOARD GAMES HAVE A MAGICAL OR RELIGOUS ORIGIN.

HOWEVER, CHESS MOST PROBABLY ORIGINATED IN NORTHERN INDIA AS A HINDU GAME IN IMITATION OF WARFARE. IT IS MUCH MORE PROBABLE THAT IT IS A GAME OF MILITARY SYMBOLISM. NEARLY ALL THE ARABIC LEGENDS ABOUT CHESS HAVE MILITARY OR POLITICAL MEANINGS. THE GAME WAS REGARDED AS A TRAINING OR PREPARATION FOR WAR AND THUS WAS DEFENSIBLE IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD AS IT WAS NOT MERELY RECREATION OR FOR GAMBLING.

THIS KASHMIRI FINELY CARVED IVORY CHESS PIECE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF A QUEEN RIDING IN HER CHARIOT.