

Finch & C^o



A VENETIAN GILDED BRONZE BUST OF ST PHILOMENA (PHILOMENA)

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ON A PEDASTAL BASE

CIRCA 1600

SIZE : 11 CM HIGH – 4¼ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

ST PHILOMENA WAS A 15 YEAR OLD VIRGIN AND MARTYR OF EARLY ROME. HER REMAINS WERE REMOVED TO ANOTHER CHURCH IN THE 8TH OR 9TH CENTURY TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF OTHER MARTYRS. IN 1802 HER BODY WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED IN THE CATACOMB OF PRISCILLA IN ROME. A CULT SOON GREW UP AROUND HER, AND IN 1835 SHE WAS CREDITED WITH THE MIRACLE CURE OF A DYING MISSIONARY AND HER PUBLIC CULT WAS THEN AUTHORISED BY POPE GREGORY XVI.

HERE SHE IS SHOWN THROWING HER HEAD BACK IN SUPPLICATION AS SHE LOOKS UPWARD TO CHRIST AND HEAVEN, HER LONG HAIR FLOWING DOWN HER SHOULDERS.