Finch & Co



A COLLECTION OF EIGHT CHINESE IVORY SPIKED BALLS, 19TH CENTURY

A COLLECTION OF EIGHT CHINESE IVORY SPIKED BALLS, COMPLETE WITH EACH ARTICULATED SPIKE ROTATING IN ITS SPHERE

19TH CENTURY

SIZE : 3 CM DIA. (APPROX.) - 1¼ INS. DIA.

LITERATURE

IN EUROPE EVRY MAJOR CABINET OF CURIOSITIES BOASTED A NUMBER OF 'KUNSTSTUCKE' OR SHOWPIECE ART WORKS IN IVORY. IN THE 17TH CENTURY IVORY TURNING WAS REGARDED AS A SOPHISTICATED PASTIME SUITABLE FOR BLUEBLOODS. BY THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY THE CHINESE EXPORT MARKET WAS FULLY EXPLOITED THE CONTINUING EUROPEAN FASCINATION WITH THESE INTRICATE CARVINGS.

IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT THESE ARTICULATED SPIKED BALLS WERE USED BY CHINESE LADIES FOR EROTIC PURPOSES AND THEY ARE STILL KNOWN AS, 'LADIES PLEASURING BALLS'.