Finch & Co



A SOUTH GERMAN STUDY OF THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST

A SOUTH GERMAN STUDY OF THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST
SHOWING ST JOHN DRESSED IN A CAMEL SKIN AND RED CLOAK WITH HIS STAFF, KNEELING AND BAPTISING CHRIST WHO KNEELS ON A ROCK IN THE RIVER, WITH TWO ANGELS LOOKING ON, THE DOVE OF THE HOLY GHOST ABOVE
PENCIL, WATERCOLOUR AND GUM ARABIC ON VELLUM
FIRST QUARTER OF THE 17TH CENTURY
SIZE : 13 CM HIGH, 16 CM WIDE – 5 INS HIGH, 6¼ INS WIDE
17 CM HIGH, 20 CM WIDE – 6¾ INS HIGH, 8 INS WIDE (FRAME)

LITERATURE

JOHN THE BAPTIST WAS AN IMMENSELY POPULAR FIGURE IN THE MIDDLE AGES AND IN ENGLAND NO FEWER THAN 496 ANCIENT CHURCHES WERE DEDICATED IN HIS HONOUR. THE MONASTIC ORDERS HAVE ALWAYS HELD HIM IN HIGH REGARD AS BY HIS SOLITARY AND AUSTERE LIFE IN THE DESERT, HE WAS CONSIDERED A MONK HIMSELF. IN ART HE IS REPRESENTED BOTH AS A PROPHET AND A BAPTISER AND HIS ASSOCIATION WITH BAPTISM MADE HIM A FAMILIAR FIGURE WITH THE ORDINARY MAN OF MEDIEVAL EUROPE. HIS IMAGE WAS FREQUENTLY SEEN ON WALL PAINTINGS, STAINED GLASS WINDOWS, BENCH ENDS AND STATUES.