

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **A MEDIEVAL GOTHIC CARVED IVORY PANEL OF THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI**

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GERMAN OR FLEMISH

3RD QUARTER OF THE 14TH CENTURY

SIZE : 7.5 CM HIGH, 4.5 CM WIDE – 3 INS HIGH, 1¾ INS WIDE

## **LITERATURE**

THIS GOTHIC MEDIEVAL IVORY PANEL IS THE LEFT WING OF A DIPTYCH, THE RIGHT BORDER OF WHICH IS NOW LOST, SHOWING THE SCENE OF THE ADORATION WITH THE CHRIST CHILD STANDING IN BLESSING AND A KING POINTING TO THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM, ALL BELOW AN ARCHITECTURAL CANOPY OF TREFOILED ARCHES.

DURING THE 13TH AND 14TH CENTURIES, ROYALTY, COURTIER'S AND CLERICS BECAME PATRONS OF CRAFT MADE OBJECTS OF PRIVATE DEVOTION. STATUETTES, DIPTYCHS AND TRIPTYCHS WERE CREATED IN EUROPE IN IVORY, SILVER, AND GOLD AS AIDS TO PRIVATE PRAYER. THEY WERE INTENDED FOR USE IN CHAPELS AND ORATORIES AND MAY ALSO HAVE OFTEN BEEN USED FOR PRIVATE MEDITATION IN THE SECLUSION OF THE BEDROOM.

THESE DEVOTIONAL IMAGES WERE BEING PRODUCED AT THE HEIGHT OF THE POPULARITY OF THE CULT OF THE VIRGIN AND THUS HER IMAGE IS FREQUENTLY AT THE CENTRE OF THESE WORKS. THE IDEA OF THE VIRGIN'S HUMANITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IS REFLECTED IN THESE IMAGES WHICH TOOK ON A SPECIAL IMPORTANCE DURING PRAYERS ON THE DAY DEDICATED TO THE RELEVANT RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL.