Finch & Co



A SPECTACULAR DUTCH ORMOLU ON COPPER SIDE BOARD DISH

A SPECTACULAR DUTCH ORMOLU ON COPPER SIDE BOARD DISH
A CAST BEADED EDGE WITH A STAMPED AND CHASED BORDER OF FRUIT AND FLOWERS, THE INNER DISH ENGRAVED WITH AN ARMORIAL, LADIES HEADS AND GARLANDS OF FRUIT
CIRCA 1700 – 1720
SIZE : 62 CM HIGH, 79 CM WIDE – 24½ INS HIGH, 31 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

HIGHLY DECORATED ORMOLU DISHES SUCH AS THIS WERE USED TO OSTENTATIOUSLY GRACE THE SIDE-BOARDS AND SIDE TABLES OF WEALTHY HOUSEHOLDS DURING THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES. BEAUTIFUL, BUT IMPRACTICAL WITH THEIR DESIGNS IN HIGH RELIEF THEY WERE MADE ON THE CONTINENT WHERE THE FASHION FOR DISPLAY HAD ORIGINATED IN THE ROYAL COURTS. ROYAL TABLE DECORATION WAS MOST OFTEN MADE OF GOLD AND SILVER, BUT AS THE FASHION SPREAD CRAFTSMEN ADAPTED THEIR MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES TO SUIT THE POCKETS OF THE MERCHANTS AND BOURGEOISIE. THUS FINELY CRAFTED COPPER AND BRASS OBJECTS WERE GILDED AND SILVERED TO REPLICATE THE GOLD AND SILVER OF THE COURT AND IN THE CANDLELIGHT OF A DARKENED ROOM THESE DISHES WOULD SPARKLE AS IF THEY WERE MADE OF SOLID GOLD.