Finch & Co



A RARE SABEAN, ANCIENT SOUTH ARABIAN CARVED IVORY DAGGER HANDLE

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SOUTH YEMEN

2ND – 1ST CENTURY BC

SIZE : 8 CM HIGH, 3.5 CM WIDE, 2.5 CM DEEP – 3¼ INS HIGH, 1½ INS WIDE, 1 INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE CARVED PORTRAIT HEAD ON THIS DAGGER HANDLE IS PROBABLY THAT OF A PRIEST OR DIGNITARY AND FROM THE QUALITY OF THE CARVING ITS POSSIBLE USE WAS IN SACRIFICIAL RITUALS. A LARGE ALABASTER STELE FROM AL JÍ»BA IN THE SOUTH YEMEN AND NOW IN THE SABA MUSEUM DETAILS A PRIEST WITH ONE HAND RAISED, THE OTHER HOLDING A STAFF, AND WEARING A DAGGER IN HIS BELT.