

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



## **AN INDIAN OR SRI LANKAN CARVED AND PAINTED IVORY HOOKAH PIPE**

AN INDIAN OR SRI LANKAN CARVED AND PAINTED IVORY HOOKAH PIPE STEM

THE END PIECE FORMED AS A TRUMPETING ELEPHANTS HEAD

CIRCA 1800

SIZE: 34.5 CMLONG – 13½ INS LONG

## **LITERATURE**

THE WEST HAS ALWAYS VIEWED THE HOOKAH AS AN IMPORTANT OBJECT WITHIN INDIAN SOCIETY, WHETHER AS A SYMBOL OF PLEASURE, DECADENCE, RECONCILIATION OR THE FOCUS OF RULES CONCERNING CASTE PURITY WHICH TOLERATED OR FORBADE THE SHARING OF MOUTH PIECES. A VICTORIAN LETTER WRITTEN TO 'THE PEOPLE OF INDIA'

COMMENTS ON A PICTURE OF A 'GUJAR'

( GUJARATIMAN ) HOLDING A HOOKAH, 'GUJARS ARE MUCH ADDICTED TO SMOKING, PARTICULARLY GANJA'... THIS HAS A PECULIARLY EXCITING AND INTOXICATING QUALITY.'