Finch & Co



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 CM LONG – 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 Â€¦.. THIS HAS A PECULIARLY EXCITING AND INTOXICATING QUALITY.'