

Finch & C^o



AN INDIAN OR SRI LANKAN CARVED AND PAINTED IVORY HOOKAH PIPE

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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.'