Finch & Co



AN ANCIENT ROMAN MARBLE COLUMN BASE DEPICTING A PANTHER WITH A BUNCH OF GRAPES AND PAN PIPES. INSCRIBED IN ROMAN LETTERING 'BONUS BENI' (GOOD LUCK)

TEXT GOES HERE

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OF GRAPES AND PAN PIPES. INSCRIBED IN ROMAN LETTERING 'BONUS BENI'

(GOOD LUCK)

1ST CENTURY AD

SIZE: 20CM HIGH X 30XM WIDE X 24CM DEEP

LITERATURE

TEXT GOES HERE

THE EARL OF ARUNDEL WAS THE FIRST TO BRING A SIGNIFICANT COLLECTION OF ANTIQUE MARBLES BACK TO ENGLAND IN THE EARLY 17TH CENTURY, BUT FOLLOWING THE SENSATIONAL DISCOVERIES AS HERCULANEUM IN 1738 AND POMPEII IN 1748 FEW ENGLISHMEN ON THE GRAND TOUR COULD RESIST ACQUIRING ANTIQUE MARBLES, MOSAICS ETC BOTH AS SOUVENIRS AND AS A TESTIMONY OF THEIR SUPERIOR TASTE IN THE ARTS.

THIS MARBLE HAS A BRASS PLAQUE ON THE REVERSE INSCRIBED 'BOUGHT IN ROME 1902', EVIDENCE THAT THE BELIEF IN THE NECESSITY OF THE GRAND TOUR FOR THE EDUCATION AND FINISHING OF ARISTOCRATIC GENTLEMEN PERSISTED WELL UP UNTIL THE 1914-18 WAR.

IT HAS PROBABLY COME FROM A TEMPLE DEDICATED TO THE GOD PAN AS HIS ATTRIBUTES OF THE PANTHER, GRAPES AND PIPES ARE DEPICTED IN THE CARVED FRIEZE, AS IS HIS MOTTO 'BONUS BENI'.