Finch & Co



A WHITE AFRICAN RHINOCEROS HORN DISH, SOUTH AFRICA

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INSCRIBED 'RHINOCEROS C.J. OCTOBER 1906'

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE: 8CM HIGH X 17CM WIDE

LITERATURE

THIS DISH IS FORMED FROM THE BASE OF A LARGE AFRICAN WHITE RHINO HORN. WHITE RHINO ARE THE LARGEST LIVING LAND MAMMAL WEIGHING UP TO 3.6 METRIC TONNES. 'WHITE' IS A DERIVATION OF THE AFRIKAANS WORD 'WEIT' MEANING WIDE-LIPPED AS IT HAS A STRAIGHT LIPPED MOUTH UNLIKE OTHER RHINOCEROS SPECIES WHICH HAVE A PREHENSILE OR POINTED UPPER LIP. THE ANTERIOR HORN OF THE WHITE RHINOCEROS IS THE LONGEST OF ANY SPECIAL AND CAN GROW UP TO 1.5 METRES. THE BASE OF ITS HORN IS NOT ROUND AS IN THE BLACK SPECIES, BUT HAS A STRAIGHT EDGED FRONT GIVING IT A HORSESHOE APPEARANCE SUCH AS CAN BE SEEN IN THIS DISH.