

Finch & C^o



FOUR ANCIENT COPTIC, ROMAN EGYPT, BONE PLAQUES
FOUR ANCIENT COPTIC, ROMAN EGYPT, BONE PLAQUES

3RD-5TH CENTURIES

SIZES:

A FRAGMENT OF A GREEK KEY BORDER 6CM X 1.5CM

B CHERUB WITH LAUREL LEAF CROWN 3CM X 2.5CM

C BUST OF A WOMAN 6.5CM X 2CM

D DANCING NEREID 6.5CM X 6CM

PROVENANCE: EX MUSTAKI COLLECTION

LITERATURE

THESE BONE PLAQUES WERE OFTEN FOUND AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY IN ALEXANDRIA BY LOCAL PEOPLE DIGGING FOR PEAT FOR FUEL IN OLD ROMAN MIDDENS. THE PLAQUES WOULD BE GATHERED TOGETHER AS THEY DUG AND LATER SOLD TO DEALERS AND COLLECTORS SUCH AS MUSTAKI.

THE PLAQUES WERE MADE FOR FURNITURE DECORATION WITH OR ON BOXES OR LARGER PIECES. THERE IS A SIMILAR PIECE DATED TO THE 5TH CENTURY AD OF A BOY IN THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM AND ANOTHER FRAGMENT WAS IN THE

ERNEST BRUMMER COLLECTION SOLD IN 1979 BY SPINKS.

ALL FOUR PLAQUES ARE CARVED IN FAIRLY HIGH RELIEF AND HAVE BEEN CARVED WITH A SENSITIVITY FOR MOVEMENT AND DRAMATIC EFFECT.