

Finch & C^o



A RARE SPANISH OR PORTUGUESE COLONIAL CARVED BUFFALO HORN CORPUS CHRISTI ON RED TORTOISESHELL OVERLAID WOOD CROSS

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18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 38CMX22.5CM(CROSS)

LITERATURE

THIS RARE CARVED FIGURE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS IS MADE OF WATER BUFFALO HORN. DOMESTIC WATER BUFFALO CAN BE INDUCED TO PRODUCE EXTRA LARGE AND STRAIGHT HORNS BY MEANS OF A NOTCH CUT INTO THE SIDE OF THE HORN TOGETHER WITH CASTRATION AT TWO YEARS OF AGE.

STYLISTICALLY THIS FINE CARVING IS REMINISCENT OF GOANESE IVORIES, BUT NO HORN CARVINGS HAVE BEEN FOUND TO COME FROM GOA. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT BUFFALO HORN WAS TRADED AND USED EXPERIMENTALLY BY THE CRAFTSMEN IN PLACE OF THE USUAL IVORY.