Finch & Co

A FINE JAPANESE CARVED BOXWOOD FIGURE OF INARI, THE RICE GOD

A FINE JAPANESE CARVED BOXWOOD FIGURE OF INARI, THE RICE GOD
STANDING HOLDING A BOWL OF RICE, HIS ROBE ENGRAVED WITH CLOUD AND FLORAL PATTERNS, HIS SHOES LACQUERED IN RED. A SIGNATURE TO THE BASE
MEIJI PERIOD 1852 – 1912
SIZE: 19.5CM HIGH – 7¾ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

INARI IS THE MOST POPULAR AGRICULTURAL DEITY OF JAPAN AND HE IS ESPECIALLY ASSOCIATED WITH RICE. INARI IS ALSO VENERATED BY MERCHANTS AS HE IS REGARDED BY THEM AS THE PATRON OF PROSPERITY. WORSHIPPED AT SHINTO SHRINES AS THE DEITY WHO ENSURES AN ABUNDANT RICE HARVEST, HIS MESSENGER ON EARTH IS THE FOX AND A PAIR OF THESE CREATURES INVARIABLY FLANKS HIS IMAGE AT EVERY INARI SHRINE.