Finch & Co



AN ANCIENT ROMAN VOTIVE BRONZE FINGER

AN ANCIENT ROMAN VOTIVE BRONZE FINGER
1ST – 2ND CENTURY AD
SIZE: 8CM LONG – 3 INS LONG

LITERATURE

VOTIVE OFFERINGS WERE GIVEN AT SACRED TEMPLE SITES, OR AT SPRING SANCTUARIES, IN RESPONSE TO THE SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF A VOW MADE TO THE GOD'S OR TO PRESAGE A GOD'S RESPONSE TO A PRAYER FOR HELP AND ASSISTANCE. AS WELL AS GIFTS TO THE GOD'S OF GOLD AND SILVER, VOTIVE OFFERINGS OFTEN TOOK THE FORM OF AN INJURED OR DISEASED PART OF THE BODY THAT NEEDED HEALING.
THE TRADITION OF OFFERING VOTIVES IS STILL PRACTISED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WHERE SPECIAL CHAPELS ARE ADORNED WITH SILVER AND METAL IMAGES OF LIMBS, HEARTS, EYES AND FEET.