Finch & Co



A SPANISH SILVER TWO-SIDED RELIQUARY PENDANT JEWEL OF OVAL SHAPE

A SPANISH SILVER TWO-SIDED RELIQUARY PENDANT JEWEL OF OVAL SHAPE
CONTAINING FOURTEEN NAMED RELICS OF SAINTS
EARLY 17TH CENTURY
SIZE: 7.5CM HIGH, 4.5CM WIDE, 1CM DEEP – 3 INS HIGH, 1¾ INS WIDE, ¼ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

AFTER THE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF CHRISTIANITY BY CONSTANTINE THE GREAT IN THE 4TH CENTURY A.D, CHRISTIAN AMULETIC IMAGES AND MOTIFS USED FOR PROTECTION AGAINST SICKNESS OR ILL FORTUNE BECAME MORE NUMEROUS, AND NEW SHAPES AND TYPES OF JEWELLERY WERE DEVISED IN ORDER TO SATISFY THE DEMAND FOR A SPECIFICALLY CHRISTIAN FORM OF AMULET. MORE RELIGIOUS JEWELLERY WAS PRODUCED IN SPAIN THAN IN ANY OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRY DURING THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES, AND THIS RELIQUARY PENDANT IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DELICATE WORK FOUND IN SPANISH CRUCIFIXES AND RELIQUARIES OF THE PERIOD.