

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **CHINESE MEDICINE OR WATER BOTTLE 'HULU'**

A CHINESE MEDICINE OR WATER BOTTLE 'HULU'

IN THE FORM OF A SHAPED AND POLISHED GOURD WITH A CARVED IVORY STOPPER AND RING FOR THE CORD TIE. AN

OLD LABEL TO THE BASE

OLD SMOOTH GLASSY PATINA

18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 16.5CM HIGH – 6½ INS HIGH

## **LITERATURE**

GOURDS HAVE LONG BEEN USED IN CHINA AS CONTAINERS FOR MEDICINE AND LIQUIDS, FOR CRICKET CAGES AND FOR TOYS. THE GOURD SYMBOLISES LONGEVITY AND IS A TALISMAN THAT CAN WARD OFF EVIL. THE DAOIST FIGURE LI TIEQUAN IS SHOWN HOLDING A DOUBLE GOURD IN HIS HAND, WHICH IS SOMETIMES DEPICTED WITH SMOKE CURLING FROM ITS MOUTH. THIS IS VARIOUSLY ASCRIBED TO A POTENT MEDICINE WITHIN THE CONTAINER, OR TO THE FREEING OF DEITY'S SPIRIT FROM HIS BODY.