

Finch & C^o



CARVED BOXWOOD MAQUETTE FOR A HARLEQUIN FIGURE FROM THE COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE

A FINE CARVED BOXWOOD MAQUETTE FOR A HARLEQUIN FIGURE FROM THE COMMEDIA DELL'ARTE
THE FEMALE FIGURE WEARING A MASK AND HER HAIR SHORT, A HAND TO HER BREAST, THE OTHER HOLDING A HAT,
DISGUISED AS HARLEQUIN
MOST PROBABLY A MODEL FOR AN ITALIAN COMEDY FIGURE BY FRANZ ANTON BUSTELLI FOR THE NYMPHENBURG
PORCELAIN FACTORY
CIRCA 1755 – 1760
SIZE: 18CM HIGH – 7 INS HIGH

LITERATURE

THE ORIGINS OF THE ITALIAN COMEDY AND THAT OF HARLEQUIN ARE LOST IN THE MIST OF TIME. HOWEVER, ACTOR / MIME
ARTISTS PORTRAYING THESE CHARACTERS WERE TRAVELLING ALL OVER EUROPE IN THE 16TH / 17TH AND 18TH
CENTURIES, AND IT IS FROM THESE SHOWS AND PERFORMANCES THAT THE ENGLISH PANTOMIME PUNCH AND JUDY
ORIGINATES.

NEXT TO THE GREAT PORCELAIN MODELLERS KAENDLER AND MELCHIOR OF MEISSEN, BUSTELLI IS ONE OF THE
GREATEST PORCELAIN ARTISTS OF THE 18TH CENTURY. THERE IS A GRACEFUL CHARM IN HIS FIGURES AND ESPECIALLY
IN HIS MANY ITALIAN COMEDIANS THAT CAN BE SEEN IN THIS BOXWOOD MAQUETTE.