

Finch & C^o



ANCIENT ROMAN FRESCO FRAGMENT FROM A POMPEIAN VILLA WALL

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THE PAINTED PLASTER WITH A DEPICTION OF A SWAG IN YELLOW AND OCHRE ATTACHED TO A GREY BASIN

SURROUNDED BY GREEN LEAVES

3RD OR 4TH POMPEIAN STYLE

2ND HALF 1ST CENTURY AD

SIZE: 11.5CM HIGH, 15CM WIDE, 2CM DEEP – 4½ INS HIGH, 6 INS WIDE, ¾ DEEP

LITERATURE

POMPEIAN WALL PAINTING IN THE 3RD AND 4TH STYLES WAS CURRENT AT THE TIME OF THE CITY'S DESTRUCTION IN AD79 AND MANY OF THESE FINE FRESCOS CAN STILL BE SEEN IN THE SURVIVING REMAINS. THE LAST YEARS OF POMPEII WERE A TIME OF MARKED ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DECLINE AND THIS WAS REFLECTED IN THE LEVELS OF PATRONAGE AND IN CONSEQUENCE, OF ARTISTIC STANDARDS. WALL PAINTING AS AN IMPORTANT ART FORM WAS ON ITS WAY OUT TO BE REPLACED BY MARBLE PANELING AND AMONGST THE WEALTHY ELITE, BY WALL MOSAIC. IN THIS RESPECT THE ERUPTION OF VESUVIUS WAS WELL TIMED AS IN ANOTHER FEW YEARS THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN LITTLE LEFT OF THE OLDER, FINER CITY OF POMPEII.