Finch & Co



PORTUGUESE COLONIAL SOUTH AMERICAN SILVER MOUNTED CARVED COCQUILLA NUT CHALICE

A PORTUGUESE COLONIAL SOUTH AMERICAN SILVER MOUNTED CARVED COCQUILLA NUT CHALICE

THE COCQUILLA NUT DECORATED WITH FLOWERING TENDRILS

FIRST HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 11.5CM HIGH, 9.5CM WIDE (MAX) – 4½ INS HIGH, 3¾ INS WIDE (MAX)

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LITERATURE

COCQUILLA NUTS FIRST CAME TO WESTERN EUROPE IN THE MID 16TH CENTURY AND BECAME A FAVOURITE MATERIAL FOR SMALL TURNED AND CARVED OBJECTS, MANY OF WHICH IN THE 16TH AND 17TH CENTURIES WERE INTENDED FOR

RELIGIOUS USE. THE NUT IS THE FRUIT OF THE BRAZILIAN 'PIASSABA' PALM WHICH GROWS EXTENSIVELY DOWN THE EASTERN SIDE OF SOUTH AMERICA IN SWAMPY GROUND.
ALTHOUGH USED TO ELEVATE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP THESE EXOTIC OBJECTS, WHICH WERE VERY POPULAR IN EUROPEAN KUUSTKAMMERS, WERE PRODUCED IN WHAT THE PRIESTS BELIEVED TO BE 'PAGAN' COUNTRIES. THE CHURCH AND MONASTERY TREASURES GREW RICH ON THE INFLUX OF THESE LUXURY ITEMS FROM SOUTH AMERICA, AFRICA AND THE ORIENT.

PROVENANCE

FINCH AND CO

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