

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



## **FRENCH FINELY CARVED COQUILLA NUT SNUFF FLASK**

A FRENCH FINELY CARVED COQUILLA NUT SNUFF FLASK

DECORATED AT ONE END WITH THE FACE OF A LION, THE OTHER WITH A BUG BEAR FACE WITH SILVER EYES AND AN IVORY STOPPER, ONE SIDE CARVED WITH HUNTING TROPHIES, THE OTHER WITH TWO HEARTS AND A DOG

SURROUNDED BY VINES AND FLOWERS

LATE 18TH – EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 10CMLONG, 4.5CMDIA – 4 INS LONG, 1¾ INS DIA

## **LITERATURE**

IN THE DAYS WHEN SNUFF TAKING WAS FASHIONABLE THERE WERE TEACHERS OF ETIQUETTE OF CORRECTLY HANDLING A SNUFFBOX JUST AS THERE WERE OF WELDING A FAN, OR DANCING OR FENCING. THERE WERE 18TH CENTURY BOOKS EXPLAINING THE RULES OF OFFERING SNUFF TO A STRANGER, A FRIEND OR MISTRESS, ACCORDING TO THE DEGREES OF FAMILIARITY OR DISTANCE. SOME USERS GRATED SNUFF FROM A RASP ONTO THE BACK OF THE HAND AND SNIFFED AND SOME TOOK A PINCH FROM A SNUFFBOX. OTHERS USED A SNUFF SPOON. ACCORDING TO ONE 18TH CENTURY COMMENTATOR: 'TO SUCH A HEIGHT WITH SOME FASHION GROWN. THEY FEED THEIR VERY NOSTRILS WITH A SPOON'.