

Finch & C^o



CHINESE IVORY HU OR COURT TABLET

A RARE CHINESE IVORY HU OR COURT TABLET

THE REVERSE DECORATED WITH A FINELY DRAWN CALLIGRAPHIC INSCRIPTION

SMOOTH MELLOW BROWN PATINA

MING DYNASTY 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 51CM LONG, 5CM WIDE – 20 INS LONG, 2 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

ACCORDING TO YANG BODA 'IN THE MING DYNASTY IVORY HU WERE USED BY OFFICIALS FROM THE FIRST TO THE FIFTH RANK, WHILE WOODEN HU FOR THE SIXTH TO THE EIGHTH RANK'. THIS FINELY SHAPED IVORY HU HAS THE ADDED ADVANTAGE OF A BEAUTIFUL CHINESE CALLIGRAPHIC INSCRIPTION TO THE REVERSE SIDE, MOST PROBABLY A POEM, TRANSFORMING IT FROM AN ANTIQUARIAN CURIOSITY INTO A SCHOLAR'S OBJECT.