Finch & Co




**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 A ANTIQUARIAN CURIOSITY INTO A SCHOLAR'S OBJECT.