Finch & Co



GERMAN AUGSBURG FIRE GILT COPPER AND ENGRAVED STEEL MINIATURE CASKET

A GERMAN AUGSBURG FIRE GILT COPPER AND ENGRAVED STEEL MINIATURE CASKET ATTRIBUTED TO MICHAEL OR CONRADT MANN

THE LOCK REPLACED. AN OLD PAPER COLLECTION LABEL TO THE STEEL BASE AND ONE INSIDE THE LID READING 'JOHN AND CICELY HORNBY NO C20'

CIRCA 1600 – 1630

SIZE: 5.5CM HIGH, 9CM WIDE, 5.5CM DEEP – 2¼ INS HIGH, 3½ INS WIDE, 2¼ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THESE CASKETS ARE KNOWN IN GERMANY AS 'MANKÍ¤STCHEN' AS SOME OF THEM ARE SIGNED BY MICHAEL AND CONRADT MANN. MICHAEL MANN WAS BORN IN AUGSBURG, TRAINED IN NUREMBERG AND THEN BECAME A MASTER IN AUGSBURG DYING IN 1630. HE MADE CLOCK CASES, MINIATURE GUNS, AND PISTOLS AS WELL AS TOY CASKETS SUCH AS THIS. CONRADT'S WORK IS SO SIMILAR THAT IT IS THOUGHT THAT THEY WERE RELATIVES AND ASSOCIATES.

THIS EXAMPLE IS MADE OF ENGRAVED IRON ENCLOSED WITHIN A LATTICEWORK OF FIRE GILT AND ENGRAVED COPPER PANELS. THE CONSTRUCTION, AND THE BOW SHAPED DROP HANDLE ON THE LID, THE BUN FEET AND THE SMALL IRON SCREWS ARE ALL TYPICAL OF THEIR WORK.