Finch & Co



ENGLISH MEDIEVAL SANDSTONE CARVING OF A TURBANED MAN WITH A MOUSTACHE

AN ENGLISH MEDIEVAL SANDSTONE CARVING OF A TURBANED MAN WITH A MOUSTACHE PROBABLY DEPICTING A TURKISH MERCHANT

END OF 14TH CENTURY

SIZE: 19CM HIGH, 16.5CM WIDE, 18CM DEEP – 7½ INS HIGH, 6½ INS WIDE, 7 INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THIS MEDIEVAL SANDSTONE CORBEL WAS CARVED TO DECORATE THE EXTERIOR OF A CHURCH DOORWAY. NOT MANY PEOPLE OF THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD HAD TRAVELLED TO THE ORIENT OR HAD EVER SEEN A TURK WEARING A TURBAN. VERY FEW NORTHERN EUROPEAN ARTISTS TRAVELLED TO ACQUIRE ORIENTAL IMAGERY AND THOSE KNOWN TO HAVE WORKED IN TURKEY HAD OTTOMAN PATRONS. THE EARLIEST REALISTIC REPRESENTATIONS OF FOREIGNERS ARE BY THE ITALIAN ARTIST GIOTTO WHO INCLUDED PORTRAYALS OF TURKS IN HIS FRESCO PAINTING OF 'SAINT FRANCIS PROPOSING THE TRIAL BY FIRE TO THE SULTAN', IN THE BARDIC CHAPEL OF SANTA CROCE IN FLORENCE, IN 1310.