

Finch & C^o



THAI AYUTTHAYA PERIOD WEATHERED STUCCO HEAD OF THE BUDDHA 15TH CENTURY

AN ANCIENT THAI AYUTTHAYA PERIOD WEATHERED STUCCO HEAD OF THE BUDDHA

15TH CENTURY

SIZE: 24CM HIGH, 15.5CM WIDE, 17CM DEEP – 9½ INS HIGH, 6 INS WIDE, 6¾ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

IN 1350AD A KINGDOM WAS ESTABLISHED IN LOWER THAILAND AT AYUTTHAYA. ITS CULTURE AND ART WAS HEAVILY INFLUENCED BY BOTH THE MON AND KHMER INSTITUTIONS PREVALENT IN THE REGION FOR SO MANY CENTURIES. IT IS TRUE TO SAY THAT FOR ALL PERIODS OF CENTRAL THAI HISTORY LARGE SEGMENTS OF THE POPULATION WERE MON, KHMER AND IN LATER TIMES, CHINESE AND ALL OF THESE NON-THAI CULTURAL INFLUENCES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROMINENT.

THIS STUCCO HEAD OF THE BUDDHA WITH ITS LONG SMOOTHLY MODELLED FACE WAS PERHAPS PART OF A BAS-RELIEF FROM A RELIGIOUS BUILDING. COATINGS OF STUCCO PROTECTED THE WALLS OF THE STUPPAS AND BUDDHIST MONASTERIES AND THESE SURFACES WERE IDEAL FOR ARTISTS WHO COVERED THEM WITH NARRATIVE RELIEFS AND FIGURES. SADLY MOST OF THESE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.