Finch & Co



SOUTH EAST ASIAN MYANMAR BURMESE OR SIAMESE TWO HANDED SACRIFICIAL SWORD

A SOUTH EAST ASIAN MYANMAR BURMESE OR SIAMESE TWO HANDED SACRIFICIAL SWORD OR 'DHA'
WITH A BROAD CURVED SINGLE EDGED IRON BLADE INLAID WITH FOLIATE DESIGNS, THE GUARD-LESS IVORY HILT WITH EMBOSSED SILVER CAPS DECORATED WITH IMAGES OF THE BUDDHA
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 89CM LONG – 35 INS LONG

LITERATURE

SWORDS OF THIS TYPE WITH DECORATION IN LUXURIOUS MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES WERE IN DEMAND; PRESUMABLY MORE FOR DISPLAY THAN FOR SACRIFICIAL USE, IN BOTH CENTRAL BURMA AND THE SHAN AREAS. BY THE 1890'S THEY WERE PROBABLY PRODUCED FOR THE COLONIAL TOURIST MARKET AS WELL. IN 1897 GEORGE BIRD NOTED IN HIS 'WANDERINGS IN BURMA' THAT THE SHOPS IN MANDALAY AND RANGOON SOLD AMONG THEIR ARTS AND CRAFTS 'COSTUMES AND ARMS OF INDIGENOUS RACES'.