

Finch & C^o



INDIAN CARVED IVORY TABLEAU OF A MUGHAL DIGNITARY

AN UNUSUALLY LARGE AND FINELY DETAILED INDIAN CARVED IVORY TABLEAU OF A MUGHAL DIGNITARY SITTING CROSS LEGGED IN HIS CANOPIED CARRIAGE DRAWN BY TWO SACRED BULLOCKS, THE COACHMEN SEATED UNDER AN AWNING

PROBABLY GUJJURAT, WESTERN INDIA

SECOND HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 20CM HIGH, 39CMLONG, 18CMWIDE – 8 INS HIGH, 15¼ INS LONG, 7 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

IN THE 19TH CENTURY, THESE TABLEAU WERE MADE IN INDIA FOR EUROPEAN CONSUMPTION. THE COLONIAL BRITISH HAD A NOSTALGIC DESIRE TO PRESENT THE INDIAN CLASSES, CASTES AND CULTURE WITHIN A TIMELESS MINIATURE FORM PRODUCING A PARALLEL WORLD TO THE ONE THEY WERE STRUGGLING TO CONTROL. CARRIAGES AND CARTS SUCH AS THIS ARE STILL THE CHIEF MEANS OF TRANSPORT AND HAULAGE IN RURAL AREAS AND AS SUCH ARE A SYMBOL OF AN 'AUTHENTIC' VILLAGE INDIA