Finch & Co



ANCIENT GALLO ROMAN BRONZE STEELYARD WEIGHT

AN ANCIENT GALLO ROMAN BRONZE STEELYARD WEIGHT DEPICTING A MALE FIGURE IN A ROMAN BELTED TUNIC WITH A CHLAMYS FASTENED AT HIS SHOULDER

THE BACK OF THE HEAD PIERCED FOR SUSPENSION

OLD DARK GREEN SMOOTH PATINATION

2ND – 3RD CENTURY AD

SIZE: 13CM HIGH – 5 INS HIGH – 15.5CM HIGH – 6 INS HIGH (WITH BASE)

LITERATURE

THIS BRONZE FIGURE ONCE ACTED AS A COUNTERWEIGHT FOR A STEELYARD BALANCE AND WAS PROBABLY USED IN A MARKET OR SHOP. THE SCALE PAN HUNG FROM THE SHORTER ARM OF THE BALANCE, AND THE COUNTERWEIGHT HUNG FROM A LOOP, WHICH FREELY MOVED ALONG A GRADUATED SCALE ALONG THE LONGER ARM. THERE WERE USUALLY TWO ALTERNATIVE POSITIONS OF THE FULCRUM AND TWO CORRESPONDING GRADUATED SCALES READING FROM 1 TO 14 AND FROM 10 TO 50.

STANDARD WEIGHTS AND MEASURES WERE A VERY IMPORTANT FEATURE OF THE ROMAN COMMERCIAL SYSTEM. THE OFFICIAL STANDARDS WERE LAID DOWN IN ROME AND BECAME THE POINT OF REFERENCE FOR THE WHOLE OF THE ANCIENT TRADING EMPIRE.