Finch & Co



INDIAN LUCKNOW CARVED IVORY FIGURE OF A 'SAPERA' OR SNAKE CHARMER

AN INDIAN LUCKNOW CARVED IVORY FIGURE OF A 'SAPERA' OR SNAKE CHARMER ON A RAISED PLATFORM BASE. IVORY HORN AND SANDALWOOD

SECOND HALF OF 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 13CM HIGH, 7.5CM WIDE, 15CM DEEP – 5 INS HIGH, 3 INS WIDE, 6 INS DEEP

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO.17, ITEM NO.24, FOR ANOTHER EXAMPLE

LITERATURE

THE FLUTE, WHICH IS USED TO MESMERISE THE SNAKES, IS CALLED A 'PUNGI' AND IS A TYPE OF FOLK CLARINET THAT ORIGINATED IN THE MIDDLE EAST. IT IS MADE FROM A DRIED BOTTLE GOURD OR COCONUT AND HAS TWO REEDS OR BAMBOO TUBES, ONE FOR THE MELODY AND ONE FOR THE DRONE, WHICH ARE PLAYED BY A PRACTISED METHOD OF CIRCULAR BREATHING SO THAT THE HAUNTING AND HYPNOTISING MELODIES ARE PLAYED TO THE SNAKES WITHOUT A PAUSE.