Finch & Co



RENAISSANCE GERMAN NUREMBERG BRONZE OF A STANDING ROMAN CENTURION

A RENAISSANCE GERMAN NUREMBERG BRONZE OF A STANDING ROMAN CENTURION KNOWN AS LONGINUS THE SOLDIER AT GOLGOTHA WHO PIERCED CHRIST'S SIDE WITH A LANCE
MOUNTED ON LATER SERPENTINE BASE
DARK BROWN NATURAL PATINA WITH TRACES OF BROWN LACQUER
16TH CENTURY
SIZE: 25CM HIGH – 9¾ INS HIGH / 28CM HIGH – 11 INS HIGH (WITH BASE)

LITERATURE

ACCORDING TO CHRISTIAN MEDIEVAL TRADITION THE BODY OF THE ROMAN CENTURION LONGINUS WAS TWICE RECOVERED AND LOST AND THEN FOUND ONCE MORE IN MANTUA IN 1304, TOGETHER WITH THE HOLY SPONGE STAINED WITH CHRIST'S BLOOD AS LONGINUS HAD ASSISTED IN CLEANSING CHRIST'S BODY WHEN IT WAS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS. STILL VENERATED TODAY IN MANTUA ARE CORPULES OF BLOOD SAID TO BE FROM THE HOLY LANCE AND BELIEVED TO HAVE MIRACULOUS CURATIVE PROPERTIES. AT THE CRUCIFIXION LONGINUS HAD RECOGNISED CHRIST'S DIVINITY AND WAS CONVERTED TO CHRISTIANITY. MARTYRED, THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH MADE HIM A SAINT AND HIS BODY LIES IN THE CHURCH OF SAN AGOSTINO IN THE VATICAN IN ROME.