

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **SOUTH GERMAN CARVED IVORY MEMENTO MORI OF A HUMAN SKULL**

A LARGE CURIOUS SOUTH GERMAN CARVED IVORY MEMENTO MORI OF A HUMAN SKULL WITH LOWER JAW DISPLAYING  
LOST TEETH AND CROOKED GRIN

LATE 17TH – EARLY 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 7CM HIGH, 5CM WIDE, 9CM DEEP – 2¾ INS HIGH, 2 INS WIDE, 3½ INS DEEP

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 13, ITEM NOS. 105, AND 106 FOR OTHER SMALLER EXAMPLES

## **LITERATURE**

KNOWN AS THE 'DEATHS HEAD' CARVED IVORIES OF THE HUMAN SKULL WERE POPULAR IN BAROQUE GERMANY AS CONTEMPLATIVE REMINDERS OF THE TRANSIENCE OF EARTHLY LIFE. HOWEVER, THERE WAS ALSO A RISING SCIENTIFIC INTEREST IN HUMAN ANATOMY, SO A CAREFULLY CARVED IVORY MODEL OF A SKULL BECAME A 'MUST HAVE' FOR A COLLECTORS KUNSTKAMMER.