Finch & Co



SPANISH VOTIVE IVORY AND SILVER ROSARY MOUNTED WITH A TOLEDO WORKED STEEL PENDANT CROSS

A FINE SPANISH VOTIVE IVORY AND SILVER ROSARY MOUNTED WITH A TOLEDO WORKED STEEL PENDANT CROSS WITH FOUR SMALL AND ONE LARGE CARVED IVORY MEMENTO MORI SKULLS
SPACED ALONG A SILVER CHAIN WITH 58 TURNED IVORY 'AVE' BEADS THE LARGE NATURISTICALLY CARVED IVORY SKULL ACTING AS THE TERMINAL BEAD
MID 17TH CENTURY
SIZE: APPROX: 142CM LONG – 56 INS LONG
SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 7, ITEM NO. 5, FOR A TURKISH STRING OF BLACK AND RED CORAL PRAYER BEADS 'SUBHA'

LITERATURE

THE WORD 'BEAD' IS DERIVED FROM THE ANGLO SAXON 'BIDDEN': TO PRAY, AND 'BEDE': PRAYER. PRAYER BEADS ARE MOST COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE MIDDLE AGES AND THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH, BUT THEIR USE IS UNIVERSAL AND PRE-DATES THE CHRISTIAN ERA. CHRISTIANITY WAS IN FACT THE LAST OF THE MAJOR RELIGIONS TO EMPLOY PRAYER BEADS IN AN IMPORTANT RITUALISTIC ROLE. EVEN TODAY THE RELIGIONS OF NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION UTILISE SOME FORM OF PRAYER BEADS.