Finch & Co



SUPERB INDIAN COURT JEWELLERY CASKET

A SUPERB INDIAN COURT JEWELLERY CASKET OF SANDALWOOD VENEERED WITH TORTOISESHELL AND INLAID WITH IVORY AND EBONY

THE DOME SHAPED TOP FITTED WITH GLASS PANELS LIFTING TO REVEAL A DETACHABLE TRAY FITTED FOR RINGS JEWELS AND VALUABLE TRINKETS AN INNER SANDALWOOD CHAMBER CONFIGURED WITH SMALL SLIDING DRAWERS AND COMPARTMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE PRECIOUS STONES AND OBJECTS EACH SIDE OF THE CASKET WITH WINDOWS OF GLASS BEHIND WHICH CARVED IVORY FLOWERS STAINED RED AND GREEN TREMBLE AND DANCE IN FRONT OF PIERCED SANDALWOOD SCREENS, WITH DETACHABLE KEY

PERHAPS FROM A GUJARATI WORKSHOP

LATE 18TH – EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 27.5CM HIGH, 33.5CM WIDE, 24CM DEEP – 10¾ INS HIGH, 13¼ INS WIDE, 9½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE DECORATION AND SHAPE OF THIS FINE BOX CAN BE COMPARED TO INDIAN ARCHITECTURE PARTICULARLY IN THE INTEGRATION OF SURFACE AND FORM THROUGH THE LATTICE WORKED SANDALWOOD SCREENS. WHILST THE DECORATION APPEARS LARGELY MUGHAL, THE TASTE FOR SUCH OPULENT OBJECTS IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AND THIS CASKET MAY HAVE BEEN PRODUCED FOR THE TURKISH MARKET.

THIS PORTABLE BOX WITH VARIOUS INTERNAL COMPARTMENTS AND DRAWERS ALMOST CERTAINLY HELD JEWELS, PRECIOUS PEARLS AND STONES AND OTHER VALUABLE PERSONAL POSSESSIONS, WHICH WOULD BE DISPLAYED AND CHOSEN FOR USE OR WEAR BY MEMBERS OF THE COURT. A KANGRA MINIATURE PAINTING DATING TO CIRCA 1800 DEPICTS AN INDIAN PRINCESS CHOOSING HER JEWELLERY FOR THE DAY WITH HER MAIDS FROM A SIMILAR CASKET, THE TRAY DISPLAYING A COLLECTION OF JEWELS.