Finch & Co



FRENCH EROTIC PAINTED AND LACQUERED PAPIER MACHÉ SNUFF BOX

A FRENCH EROTIC PAINTED AND LACQUERED PAPIER MACHÉ SNUFF BOX THE LID DECORATED WITH A LADY OF FASHION THE SECRET INNER LID LIFTING TO REVEAL TWO COUPLES IN CLOSE AMOROUS EMBRACE

CIRCA 1840 – 60

SIZE: 9CM DIA. 2CM HIGH – 3½ INS DIA. ¾ INS HIGH

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 12, ITEM NO. 17, FOR A MAPLE WOOD FRENCH EROTIC SNUFF BOX

LITERATURE

DURING THE LATER DECADES OF THE 19TH CENTURY SEX BECAME A 'HIDDEN' ACTIVITY ASSOCIATED WITH MORAL DISSIPATION AND DISGRACE. IT WAS POPULARLY BELIEVED THAT THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE WAS DIRECTLY ATTRIBUTABLE IN A LARGE DEGREE TO THEIR SEXUAL EXCESS. IN FACT, IN ANTIQUITY, THEY WERE MERELY LESS RETICENT IN TALKING ABOUT AND DEPICTING SEXUAL MATTERS.