

Finch & C^o



DOUBLE SIDED SEYCHELLES COCO DE MER OF FEMALE FORM

A FINE DOUBLE SIDED SEYCHELLES COCO DE MER OF FEMALE FORM
19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 26.5CM HIGH, 30.5CM WIDE, 17CM DEEP - 10½ INS HIGH, 12 INS WIDE, 6¾ INS DEEP

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 3, ITEM NO. 35, CATALOGUE NO. 15, ITEM NO. 31 AND CATALOGUE NO. 19, ITEM NO. 21,
FOR OTHER EXAMPLES

LITERATURE

A 'MALDIVAN COCO' IS DESCRIBED IN THE 1737 INVENTORY OF THE ROYAL DANISH KUNSTKAMMER AT ROSENBERG CASTLE IN COPENHAGEN AS 'COMPLETE, RARE AND BEAUTIFUL'. HOWEVER, THE MYSTERIOUS AND LEGENDARY 'COCO DE MER' ACTUALLY COMES FROM TWO OF THE 115 ISLANDS THAT MAKE UP THE SEYCHELLES IN THE WEST INDIAN OCEAN AND NOT FROM THE MALDIVES AS ORIGINALLY THOUGHT. THE 17TH CENTURY BOTANIST RUMPHIUS FOUND THEM FLOATING IN THE SEAS OFF THE MALDIVE ISLANDS, AND SO THE DOUBLE NUTS WERE ERRONEOUSLY GIVEN THE LATIN NAME 'LODOICEA MALADIVICA' BY WHICH THEY HAVE BEEN KNOWN EVER SINCE.