

Finch & C^o



BURMESE 'ANGLO CHINESE' CARVED GREEN STAINED AND NATURAL IVORY CHESS SET

A FINE BURMESE 'ANGLO CHINESE' CARVED GREEN STAINED AND NATURAL IVORY CHESS SET DEPICTING CHARACTERS FROM THE ENGLISH AND CHINESE COURT
EARLY 19TH CENTURY
SIZES: 10.5CM HIGH – 4 INS HIGH (MAX)

LITERATURE

IN THE 19TH CENTURY BURMA WAS A PROVINCE OF BRITISH INDIA ON THE EAST SIDE OF THE BAY OF BENGAL EXTENDING FROM MANIPUR IN THE NORTH TO THAILAND IN THE SOUTH. IT IS BOUNDED ON THE EAST BY CHINA, ANNAM AND THAILAND. AMONGST THE CHINESE IMMIGRANT POPULATION IN BURMA THERE EXISTED SKILLED WORKERS IN IVORY WHO STEADILY BUILT UP TRADE WITH THE WEST. SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE 19TH CENTURY ORNATE CHESSMEN WITH AN EMPHASIS ON DECORATIVE PLAYING PIECES WERE PRODUCED. THESE WERE MADE EXCLUSIVELY FOR EXPORT AND WERE SENT IN SUCH QUANTITY THAT THE STYLE BECAME KNOWN AS 'TRADITIONAL BURMESE'. ALTHOUGH VARYING IN SIZE THEY WERE ALWAYS OF GOOD QUALITY AND OFTEN OF EXCELLENT WORKMANSHIP.