

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **EARLY CHRISTIAN BYZANTINE BRONZE PROCESSIONAL CROSS**

A RARE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN EARLY CHRISTIAN BYZANTINE BRONZE PROCESSIONAL CROSS  
THE FLAT BODY WITH BROAD FLARING ARMS INWARDLY CUSPED ENDS WITH LARGE DISCOID FINIALS, COMPASS DRAWN  
MEDALLIONS ENCLOSING SIX PETALLED ROSES TOGETHER WITH MULTIPLE CONCENTRIC RINGS DECORATE THE  
CROSS, THE BOTTOM EDGE OF EACH LATERAL ARM IS PIERCED THREE TIMES FOR 'PENDILIA', THE LOWER PART  
CONTINUES DOWNWARD IN A TANG WHERE THE CROSS WAS ONCE MOUNTED ON A STAFF

PALESTINE OR CONSTANTINOPLE

AGED SMOOTH GREEN PATINA

6TH TO 8TH CENTURY AD

SIZE: 59CM HIGH, 33CM WIDE – 23¼ INS HIGH, 13 INS WIDE

63CM HIGH – 24¾ INS HIGH (INCLUDING STAND)

## **LITERATURE**

IN THE BYZANTINE PERIOD HOLY FEAST DAYS, SUCH AS PALM SUNDAY OR THE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS, WERE  
OBSERVED AND CELEBRATED WITH PROCESSIONS IN WHICH THE PUBLIC TOOK PART. THE PROCESSION WOULD BE  
ORGANISED BY THE CHURCH AND LED BY THE ELDERS. A CROSS SUCH AS THIS EXAMPLE, OR AN ICON OR OTHER HOLY  
RELIC WOULD BE DISPLAYED AT THE HELM FOR ALL TO SEE BY A CHURCH DIGNITARY. PROCESSIONAL OBJECTS WERE  
ALSO TAKEN INTO BATTLE WHERE IT SERVED AS A SPIRITUAL SHIELD AGAINST THE ENEMY. WHEN NOT IN USE  
PROCESSIONAL CROSSES WERE DISPLAYED WITHIN THE CHURCH NEAR THE ALTAR.