

Finch & C^o



AUSTRIAN HAPSBURG CARVED HIPPOPOTAMUS TOOTH POWDER FLASK

AN AUSTRIAN HAPSBURG CARVED HIPPOPOTAMUS (HIPPOPOTAMUS AMPHIBIUS) TOOTH POWDER FLASK DECORATED WITH A STAG HUNTING SCENE AND TO THE REVERSE WITH A NOBLE COAT OF ARMS AND OVAL PORTRAIT MEDALLION THE WILD BOARS HEAD FINIAL WITH A RINGED PLUG

FIRST HALF OF 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 25CM WIDE, 4.5CM DIA (APPROX) – 9¾ INS WIDE, 1¾ INS DIA (APPROX)

LITERATURE

POWDER FLASKS ORIGINATED AS A CASE IN WHICH TO CARRY GUNPOWDER USED AS THE CHARGE FOR MUZZLE LOADING GUNS. THEY BECAME AESTHETIC OBJECTS IN THEIR OWN RIGHT AS WELL AS A SIGN OF RANK. ORNATE POWDER FLASKS SUCH AS THIS PROBABLY NEVER ACTUALLY FUNCTIONED AS CONTAINERS FOR GUNPOWDER, BUT WERE WORN TO ORNAMENT FASHIONABLE HUNTING DRESS.