Finch & Co



ITALIAN NEAPOLITAN PIQUÉ ET POSÉ GOLD AND MOTHER OF PEARL INLAID TORTOISESHELL BOX WITH SILVER MOUNTS

A FINE ITALIAN NEAPOLITAN PIQUÉ ET POSÉ GOLD AND MOTHER OF PEARL INLAID TORTOISESHELL BOX WITH SILVER MOUNTS

MID 18TH CENTURYÂ€¨

SIZE: 2CM HIGH, 8CM WIDE, 5.5CM DEEP - ¾ INS HIGH, 3 INS WIDE, 2¼ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE TECHNIQUE OF PIQUÉ IN TORTOISESHELL WAS KNOWN THROUGHOUT EUROPE IN THE 17TH AND 18TH CENTURIES, BUT THE BEST QUALITY CAME FROM THE WORKSHOPS OF THE NEAPOLITAN CRAFTSMEN CALLED 'TABACI TARTARUGA'. THESE CRAFTSMEN CO-OPERATED WITH THE MAKERS OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, CLOCKS, FURNITURE AND CABINETS PRODUCING INLAY WHERE IT WAS REQUIRED. AS MAKERS OF FINE INLAID BOXES, TRAYS, CANDLESTICKS AND OTHER LUXURIES THEY WERE UNSURPASSED. ONE MEMBER OF THE TABACI TARTARUGA, ANTONIO LAURENTIS, WAS APPOINTED GOLDSMITH TO THE COURT OF NAPLES IN 1747.