

Finch & C^o



DUTCH CHINA TRADE CANTONESE SILVER AND IVORY POCKET SNUFF BOX

A DUTCH CHINA TRADE CANTONESE SILVER AND IVORY POCKET SNUFF BOX THE IVORY LID CARVED WITH AN EROTIC SCENE OF NEPTUNE AND AMPHITRITE SEATED IN A CHINESE GARDEN

18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 2CM HIGH, 7.5CM WIDE, 6CM DEEP - ¾ INS HIGH, 3 INS WIDE, 2½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE LURE OF LUXURY GOODS FROM THE WORKSHOPS OF CHINA'S CRAFTSMEN WAS FELT BY OTHER ASIAN PEOPLES FOR CENTURIES BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS IN THE EAST ASIA SEAS AROUND 1514. THIS HIGHLY DEVELOPED CHINESE MARKET WAS ABLE TO SATISFY ITS FOREIGN CUSTOMERS WITH DISTINCTIVE SHAPES AND DECORATION WHICH MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SOCIETIES VERY DIFFERENT FROM THAT IN WHICH GOODS WERE PRODUCED. THE SOURCE FOR THE SCENE ON THE LID OF THIS SNUFF BOX LIES IN A EUROPEAN CLASSICAL ENGRAVING AND IS AN EXAMPLE OF THE WESTERN SEARCH FOR LUXURY PRODUCTS IN ASIA WHICH WAS TO HAVE MAJOR CONSEQUENCES IN THE EVENTUAL CREATION OF AN INTEGRATED WORLD ECONOMIC SYSTEM.