Finch & Co



A VICTORIAN TAXIDERMY SPECIMEN OF A SOUTH AMERICAN SPECTACLED CAIMAN

A VICTORIAN TAXIDERMY SPECIMEN OF A SOUTH AMERICAN SPECTACLED CAIMAN 'CAIMAN CROCODILUS'
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 102CM LONG - 40¼ INS LONG
Â€¨SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO.17, ITEM NO.15, FOR AN EXAMPLE OF AN AMERICAN BLACK ALLIGATOR

LITERATURE

THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS WORSHIPPED THE CROCODILE AS THE GOD SOBEK WHO WAS OFTEN PORTRAYED AS A MAN WITH A CROCODILE'S HEAD. ITS CULT CENTRE AT MEDINET EL-FAYUM WAS KNOWN AS 'CROCODILOPOLIS', BUT NUMEROUS OTHER SHRINES AND TEMPLES WERE DEDICATED IN HIS HONOUR THROUGHOUT THE NILE VALLEY. THE TEMPLES OF SOBEK WERE USUALLY PROVIDED WITH A POOL CONTAINING SACRED LIVE CROCODILES LOOKED AFTER BY PRIESTS DEDICATED TO THEIR WELFARE. DURING THE 12TH AND 13TH DYNASTIES (1985-1750BC) THE CULT OF SOBEK WAS PARTICULARLY PROMINENT AS SHOWN IN THE BIRTH NAME OF ALL EIGHT RULERS OF THE 13TH DYNASTY: SOBEKHOTEP, AND IN THE BIRTH NAME OF THE LAST RULER OF THE 12TH DYNASTY: SOBEKNEFERU WHO WAS THE FIRST ATTESTED FEMALE PHARAOH. THE NAME 'SOBEKNEFERU' MEANS 'BEAUTIFUL CROCODILE'.