

Finch & C^o



RUSSIAN TULA STEEL GOLD AND SILVER MOUNTED POCKET SNUFF BOX

A FINE RUSSIAN TULA STEEL BRASS AND SILVER MOUNTED POCKET SNUFF BOX

CIRCA 1800

SIZE: 1.3CM HIGH, 6.5CM WIDE, 3.5CM DEEP - ½ INS HIGH, 2½ INS WIDE, 1¼ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE TULA ARMS FACTORY WAS FOUNDED IN 1712 AS RUSSIA'S PROTRACTED WAR WITH SWEDEN CAUSED THE TRANSFERENCE TO TULA OF THE EXPERIENCED MASTER CRAFTSMEN FROM THE MOSCOW ARMOURY. THE FACTORY CONTINUED TO FULFIL STATE ORDERS FOR ARMS, BUT GRADUALLY THEY BECAME EMPLOYED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF LUXURY GOODS. CATHERINE THE GREAT FREQUENTLY GAVE GIFTS OF TULA WORK TO FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES AND DIPLOMATS PRAISING THE COMBINATION OF BLUED STEEL WITH GOLD AND GILT METAL. AS THEY WERE MAINLY INTENDED FOR THE PALACES OF EUROPEAN ROYALTY THESE ARTICLES WERE EXTRAORDINARILY EXPENSIVE.