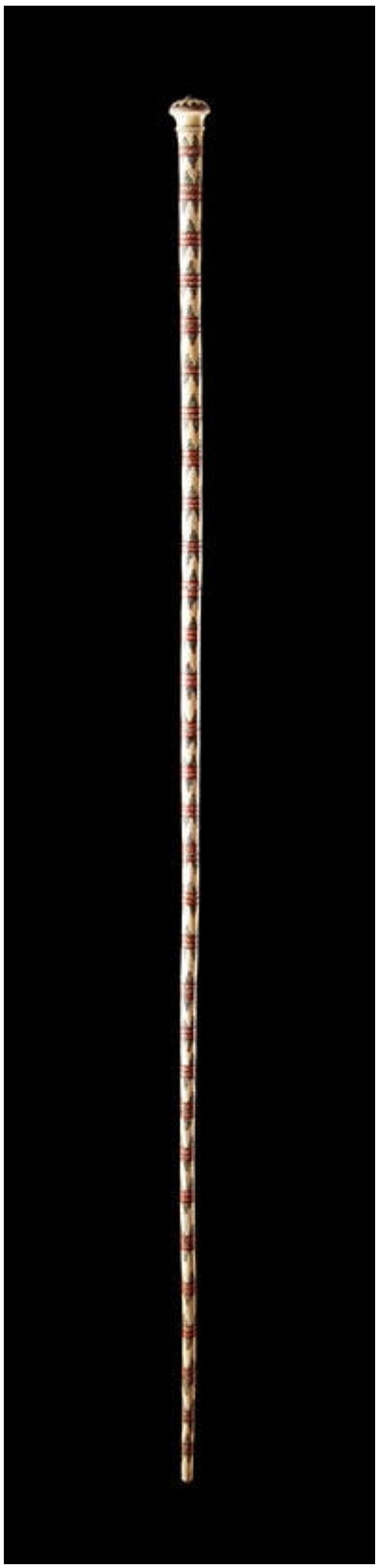
Finch & Co



SRI LANKAN IVORY KANDYAN COURT STAFF OF OFFICE

A FINE SRI LANKAN IVORY KANDYAN COURT STAFF OF OFFICE
THE TALL CANE DECORATED WITH A TRADITIONAL POLYCHROME RED AND BLACK DESIGN
EARLY 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 105CM LONG - 39½ INS LONG

LITERATURE

IVORY WAS A FAVOURITE MEDIUM AND WAS WIDELY USED BY THE SINHALESE CRAFTSMEN OF THE MOUNTAIN KINGDOM OF KANDY. THE ROYAL PALACE WAS A CENTRE THAT ATTRACTED THE BEST SKILLED ARTISTS WHO FORMED A GUILD CALLED THE 'PATTAL HATARA'. MEMBERS INCLUDED PAINTERS, JEWELLERS, GOLD AND SILVERSMITHS AND IVORY WORKERS. THEY ENJOYED THE KING'S PROTECTION AND RECEIVED ROYAL DONATIONS. THEIR PRESENCE ATTRACTED OTHER ARTISTS AND PERFORMERS, SUCH AS MUSICIANS AND DANCERS, TO THE COURT AND THE KINGS OF THE SMALL INDEPENDENT KINGDOM OF KANDY BECAME FAMED FOR THEIR PATRONAGE OF THE ARTS.