

Finch & C^o



SOUTH GERMAN BAVARIAN ALPINE SHEPHERD'S TALISMANIC ROSARY

A CURIOUS SOUTH GERMAN BAVARIAN ALPINE SHEPHERD'S TALISMANIC ROSARY STRUNG WITH CARVED WOODEN AND IRON AMULETS AND VOTIVE 'ARMA CHRISTI' A BONE 'MEMENTO MORI' SKULL SHEEP AND DEER'S TEETH AND A CROSS

MADE OF TWO DEER FIBULA

LATE 18TH – EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 74CMLONG - 29 INS LONG

LITERATURE

ARITUAL OBJECT CARRIED TO AID PROTECTION, THIS ROSARY WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE AMULETIC AND CURATIVE PROPERTIES. THE BONES AND TEETH WERE REGARDED AS THE REPOSITORY OF BENEFICIAL POWERS AND THUS A DEFENCE AGAINST THE INFLUENCE OF EVIL FORCES. WORN SUSPENDED FROM A GIRDLE OR AS PART OF A DOMESTIC SHRINE, THE ROSARY WAS A TALISMAN AS WELL AS AN INDICATOR OF FAITH SINCE THE HOPE OF SALVATION IN THE NEXT WORLD RAN IN PARALLEL WITH ANXIETY ABOUT THE PRESENT. A BELIEF IN MAGIC BLENDED WITH RELIGIOUS FAITH PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN AN AGE WITH FEW PROTECTIONS AGAINST ILLNESS, INJURY OR NATURAL DISASTER.