Finch & Co



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: 74CM LONG - 29 INS LONG

LITERATURE

A RITUAL 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.