

Finch & C^o



ANCIENT LURISTAN MINIATURE BRONZE OF A STAG

AN ANCIENT LURISTAN MINIATURE BRONZE OF A STAG WITH ANTLERS

OLD SMOOTH GREENISH PATINA

10TH - 8TH CENTURY BC

SIZE: 3.5CM HIGH, 5CMLONG, 1CMWIDE - 1½ INS HIGH, 2 INS LONG, ½ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

NATURALISTIC REPRESENTATIONS OF ANIMALS WERE FOUND IN BURIAL CONTEXTS IN LORESTÁN IN THE ZAGROS MOUNTAINS DURING THE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURIES. THE ZAGROS IS THE LARGEST MOUNTAIN RANGE IN IRAN FORMING A NATURAL GEOGRAPHICAL BORDER, AND THEY ARE CONSIDERED SACRED BY THE KURDISH PEOPLE. THESE SMALL BRONZE FIGURES WERE MOST PROBABLY VOTIVE OFFERINGS THAT WERE LAID NEAR THE DEAD. THE STAG WAS REVERED AS ONE OF THE SWIFTEST ANIMALS AND THEREFORE CAPABLE OF HELPING TO SPEED THE SPIRITS OF THE DEAD ON THEIR WAY.