Finch & Co



ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MINIATURE CARVED CALCITE COSMETIC POT

AN ANCIENT EGYPTIAN MINIATURE CARVED CALCITE COSMETIC POT
EARLY DYNASTIC PERIOD / CIRCA 3100 BC
SIZE: 3.5CM HIGH, 3CM DIA. - 1½ INS HIGH, 1¼ INS DIA. / 5CM HIGH - 2 INS HIGH (WITH BASE)

LITERATURE

FROM THE EARLY EGYPTIAN DYNASTIC PERIOD PRECIOUS UNGUENTS AND OTHER COSMETIC PREPARATIONS WERE STORED IN SMALL JARS. IN THIS AND THE OLD KINGDOM MINIATURE VESSELS WERE CARVED FROM HARD STONES SUCH AS TRAVERTINE, DIORITE AND LIMESTONE. IN THE NEW KINGDOM ALABASTER, PRIZED FOR ITS TRANSLUCENCY BECAME THE MATERIAL OF CHOICE. WHEN NOT IN USE COSMETIC POTS AND UNGUENT JARS WERE OFTEN STORED WITH OTHER COSMETIC ITEMS IN SMALL WOODEN CASKETS SPECIALLY FITTED WITH DRAWERS AND COMPARTMENTS.