Finch & Co



THAI BRONZE ROBED TORSO OF THE 'WALKING' BUDDHA

A THAI BRONZE ROBED TORSO OF THE 'WALKING' BUDDHA SHAKYAMUNI THE DETAILS OF THE NAKED CHEST AND ABDOMEN STILL DEFINED UNDER THE ENCRUSTED GREEN PATINATED SURFACE

SUKOTHAI PERIOD 14TH - 15TH CENTURY

SIZE: 24.5CM HIGH, 17CM WIDE, 7 CM DEEP - 9¾ INS HIGH, 6¾ INS WIDE, 2¾ INS DEEP / 31CM HIGH - 12¼ INS HIGH (WITH BASE)

LITERATURE

THE BUDDHA IS FACING TOWARD THE VIEWER DISPLAYING THE GESTURE OF REASSURANCE WITH HIS LEFT HAND RATHER THAN WITH THE CUSTOMARY RIGHT HAND. HE IS POISED TO STEP FORWARD, HIS RIGHT ARM SWINGING OUTWARD. THE IMAGE OF THE WALKING BUDDHA FIRST APPEARED IN SUKHOTHAI WHERE THE FIRST THAI KINGDOM WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1238. THE ICONOGRAPHY IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN DERIVED FROM REPRESENTATIONS OF THE BUDDHA SHAKYAMUNI DESCENDING FROM THE HEAVENS AFTER PREACHING TO HIS MOTHER. BUDDHISM IN SUKHOTHAI HAD CLOSE ASSOCIATIONS WITH SRI LANKA, SO IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE IDEA WAS BORROWED FROM THERE RATHER THAN INDIA. MUCH IMPORTANCE IS ATTACHED IN SRI LANKA TO THE BUDDHA'S MEDITATION AND COGNITION WHILE PACING BACK AND FORTH 'CHANKAMANA' AFTER HIS ENLIGHTENMENT AT BODHGAYA.