Finch & Co



ANCIENT INDIAN UTTAR PRADESH MATHURA RAILING PILLAR FRAGMENT

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THE SIDES WITH LOZENGE SHAPED SOCKETS FOR THE RAILINGS THE FRONT AND BACK EACH WITH THREE FACETS THE LOWER PORTION TRANSLATING TO A RECTANGULAR SECTION

1ST CENTURY BC - 1ST CENTURY AD

SIZE: 101CM HIGH - 39¾ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

PILLARS SUCH AS THIS FORMED THE BOUNDARY FOR ENCLOSURES AROUND THE CENTRAL STUPA IN EARLY BUDDHIST MONUMENTS. THEY WERE FIRST CARVED IN IMITATION OF WOODEN RAILINGS THAT DEMARCATED THE CIRCUMAMBULATORY PATH AROUND THE RELIGIOUS ENCLOSURE. THE STUPA IN EARLY BUDDHIST ART REPRESENTS THE FINAL RELEASE OF THE BUDDHA WHICH OCCURRED AT KUSHINAGARA IN A GROVE OF SAL TREES, JUST AS THE BUDDHA WAS BORN IN A SAL GROVE. A BED WAS PREPARED IN THE SHADE OF A PAIR OF TREES AND WHILE LYING ON IT THE BUDDHA DISCOURSED WITH HIS DISCIPLES FOR A WHILE BEFORE PASSING INTO NIRVANA. LOTUSES ARE OFTEN FOUND CARVED ON ANCIENT MATHURA RAILING PILLARS AS THE LOTUS REPRESENTS THE FULL BLOSSOMING OF THE PURE COMPASSION THAT EMBRACES ALL LIVING BEINGS WITHOUT EXCEPTION.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE ENGLISH COLLECTION

EX KAPOOR GALLERIES NEW YORK

CF: CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART, OHIO, USA HAS A SIMILAR RAILING SECTION WITH PILLAR AND CROSS BARS FORMED OF ONE PIECE OF STONE (CZUMA & MORRIS. 1985. NO. 28. PG. 89-90)