Finch & Co



A SMALL EUROPEAN SILVER MOUNTED PENDANT BEZOAR STONE

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LATE 17TH – EARLY 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 2.5CM HIGH, 2CM DIA. - 1 INS HIGH, 1 INS DIA.

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LITERATURE

SMALL BEZOAR STONES WERE OFTEN MOUNTED SO THAT THEY COULD BE WORN WITH A CHAIN AS AMULETIC PENDANTS ENABLING THEM TO BE PUT INTO A GOBLET SO THAT THE MAGICAL STONE COULD IMPART ITS MEDICINAL PROPERTIES TO THE LIQUID AND ALSO IDENTIFY ANY PRESENCE OF POISON. BELIEVED TO POSSESS SPECIAL PROPHYLACTIC QUALITIES, BEZOAR WERE TREASURED AS PROTECTIVE JEWELS BY THE NOBILITY OF THE EUROPEAN COURTS. THE INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF CATHERINE OF BRAGANZA, WHO DIED IN LISBON IN 1705, LISTS SEVERAL GOLD AND SILVER MOUNTED BEZOAR STONES.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE WEST COUNTRY COLLECTION