

# *Finch & C°*



## **A HOARD OF SILVER RUPEES RECOVERED FROM THE WRECK OF THE 'TAJ MAHAL'**

A HOARD OF SILVER RUPEES RECOVERED FROM THE WRECK OF THE 'TAJ MAHAL' LYING OFF SRI LANKA NEAR THE GREAT BASSES REEF BY THE FAMOUS BRITISH SCIENCE FICTION WRITER ARTHUR C. CLARKE (1917 - 2008)

THE COINS NOW CONTAINED IN AN OLD DUTCH 17TH CENTURY POTTERY BELLAMINE

CIRCA 1702 - 1703

SIZE: APPROX: 2.5CM DIA EACH - 1 INS DIA EACH / POT: APPROX: 11CM HIGH, 10CM DIA - 4¼ INS HIGH, 4 INS DIA

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ARTHUR C. CLARKE WAS THE AUTHOR OF '2001 A SPACE ODYSSEY' AMONGST OTHER SCIENCE FICTION BOOKS. HE MOVED TO SRI LANKA IN MID-LIFE FOR THE CLIMATE AND TOOK UP SCUBA DIVING. IN 1963 HE FOUND THE WRECK OF AN INDIAN MERCHANT SHIP AND NEARBY HUNDREDS OF SILVER RUPEES SCATTERED ACROSS THE GREAT BASSES REEF, MANY OF WHICH HE RECOVERED. THE COINS WERE STRUCK DURING THE REIGN OF AURANGZEB (1658 - 1707) THE SIXTH EMPEROR OF THE MUGHAL EMPIRE AND MANY WERE STILL INSIDE THEIR ORIGINAL MONEY BAGS. CLARKE DONATED MOST OF THE COINS TO THE SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM, BUT THESE FOURTEEN HE GAVE TO HIS GOOD FRIEND THE FILM PRODUCER WILLIAM MACQUITTY.

**PROVENANCE**

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION WILLIAM MACQUITTY (1905 - 2008) BRITISH FILM PRODUCER GIFTED TO HIM BY ARTHUR C. CLARKE

THENCE BY DESCENT