Finch & Co



INDIAN RAJASTHAN IRON CASKET DECORATED WITH GOLD DAMASCENE WITH FOLIATE AND TENDRIL DESIGNS IN THE KOFTGARI TECHNIQUE OF OVAL FORM

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TWO CIRCULAR HANDLES TO EACH SIDE VELVET LINED RAISED UPON FOUR IRON BUN FEET

WITH ORIGINAL GILT DECORATED KEY

MID 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 9.5CM HIGH, 17CM WIDE, 13.5CM DEEP - 3¾ INS HIGH, 6¾ INS WIDE, 5¼ INS DEEP

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LITERATURE

'KOFTGARI' OR 'KUFTKARI' IS THE TECHNIQUE IN WHICH A PATTERN TRACED ONTO IRON OR STEEL IS INLAID WITH GOLD. IT WAS TRADITIONALLY USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF WEAPONS AND ARMOUR, BUT AFTER THE ANNEXATION OF THE PUNJAB BY THE BRITISH IN 1849 THE PRODUCTION OF ARMS WAS BANNED. THE SKILLED ARTISAN 'KUFTKARS' QUICKLY TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO SUPPLYING THE GROWING EUROPEAN DEMAND FOR LUXURY DOMESTIC OBJECTS DECORATED WITH DAMASCENED GOLD OR SILVER. HOWEVER, THE WORKSHOPS DID QUIETLY CONTINUE THEIR

TRADITIONAL ART WITH WEAPONRY ALBEIT ON A MUCH REDUCED SCALE.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE ENGLISH COLLECTION