Finch & Co



A NETHERLANDS SILVER CIRCULAR PYX DATED '1674'

A NETHERLANDS SILVER CIRCULAR PYX DATED '1674' A CARTOUCHE TO THE CENTRE OF THE LID ENGRAVED WITH A SACRED FLAMING HEART AND MONOGRAM THE SIDES WITH SCROLLING FOLIAGE

UNMARKED

17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 3.5CM HIGH, 5CM DIA. - 1¼ INS HIGH, 2 INS DIA.

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LITERATURE

A PYX WAS A SMALL ROUND CONTAINER MADE FOR HOLDING THE CONSECRATED WAFER OR HOST USED IN THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNION SERVICE AS A SYMBOL OF THE BODY OF CHRIST. THESE SMALL BOXES WERE PROBABLY INTENDED FOR USE BY A TRAVELLING CELEBRANT WHO WOULD TAKE THE EUCHARIST TO THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH, OR THE SICK, IN ORDER FOR THEM TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION.

PYXES WERE WIDELY USED IN MONASTERIES FOR HOLDING THE BLESSED SACRAMENTS. AN INVENTORY OF 1536, THE YEAR IN WHICH HENRY VIII PASSED THE ACT FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE LESSER MONASTERIES, CONTAINS AN ENTRY FOR '190 DIVERS PYXIDES OF IVORY WITH CLASPS AND WITHOUT THEM, OF SILVER, WITH MANY RELICKS'.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE ENGLISH COLLECTION