Finch & Co



A PARIS EMBROIDERED GAMING PURSE

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RED VELVET, SILVER THREAD, CALF SKIN

SUPERB OVERALL 'MINT' CONDITION

FRANCE

17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 17CM DIA. - 6¾ INS DIA.

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LITERATURE

AT THE END OF THE 17TH CENTURY EUROPE WITNESSED A 'NEW LEVEL' OF CARD GAME MANIA. GAMBLING WITH CARDS OR 'GAMING' WAS A FAVOURED PASTIME FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL AGES AND CLASSES. THE GAMING BAGS REFLECTED THIS FASHION, WITH A SPECIFIC TYPE OF BAG IN WHICH TO HOLD ONE'S COINS OR COUNTERS WON IN GAMES LIKE 'PUT' OR 'LA BÊTE.'

LIKE OTHER FASHIONABLE ACCESSORIES OF THE PERIOD, THE BAG SERVED MORE THAN JUST A FUNCTIONAL PURPOSE.

IT CONVEYED A MESSAGE ABOUT THE OWNER'S NATIONALISTIC SYMPATHIES.

OF A CYLINDRICAL FORM, EMBROIDERED WITH 'FLEUR-DE-LYS' TO THE BASE AND THE CIRCUMFERENCE. THE STRIKING IMPRESSION OF THIS RARE SURVIVAL IS THE OUTSTANDING CONDITION OF THE VELVET AND SILVER THREAD. A PURSE WHICH HAD LITTLE USE, AND SPENT THE PAST 300 PLUS YEARS HIDDEN IN A DRAWER AND AWAY FROM LIGHT.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE DUTCH COLLECTION