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AN UNUSUAL NAMBAN LEATHER WALLET

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THE WHOLE SURFACE EMBOSSED WITH SCENES FROM DAILY LIFE

LEATHER, METAL,

NAGASAKI, JAPAN

CIRCA 1870'S

SIZE: 10.5CM HIGH, 18CM WIDE - 4¼ INS HIGH, 6¼ INS WIDE

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LITERATURE

NAMBAN WALLETS ARE NOT UNUSUAL OF COURSE, BUT TO FIND AN EXAMPLE SUCH AS THIS ONE WITH EMBOSSED SURFACES DEFINITELY IS. IT MAY BE A WALLET COMMEMORATING THE FIRST TRAIN AND RAILWAY IN JAPAN, IN 1872,

BETWEEN SHIMBASHI (TOKYO) AND SAKURAGICHŌ. THE SYMBOLS INCLUDE: DUTCH TRADER BOOTS, A BOOK, A JAPANESE COMPASS, SHIPS, A HAND (OR GLOVE), A WINGED CHERUB, A RICKSHAW, A GLOBE, A SABRE AND MUSKET, FLAGS, TRUMPETS, A HORSE, A BOWLER HAT, RIFLES, SWORDS, AN UMBRELLA. THE MAIN SYMBOL IS THE LOCOMOTIVE EMERGING FROM A TUNNEL, DEPICTED ACROSS THE TOP OF THE WALLET, UNDERNEATH THE INNER FLAP.