Finch & Co



A RARE BRONZE BELT ORNAMENT

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DEPICTING A HORSE BEING ATTACKED BY A TIGER

RICH DARK BROWN GLOSSY PATINA

BRONZE

CHINA / ORDOS REGION, MONGOLIA

CIRCA 300 BC

SIZE: 7.5CM HIGH, 11CM WIDE - 3 INS HIGH, 4¼ INS WIDE

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LITERATURE

TO THE NORTH AND ALONG THE WESTERN PERIMETER OF THE MAIN CHINESE SETTLEMENTS OF THE PRE-HAN AND HAN DYNASTY (3RD TO 1ST CENTURIES BC) LIVED A NOMADIC PEOPLES WHOSE CULTURES WERE DIFFERENT FROM THOSE

OF THEIR CHINESE NEIGHBOURS. NUMEROUS BELT PLAQUES, HORSE-GEAR AND WEAPONS DEPICTING ANIMALS, OFTEN IN COMBAT, WERE PRODUCED IN THE REGION AND THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD.

DURING THE HAN DYNASTY (206 BC-220 AD) THE CHINESE MADE TREATIES WITH THE XIONGNU PEOPLES WHO DOMINATED THE MONGOLIAN AND ORDOS AREA AT THE TIME. MANY OF THE SURVIVING ANIMAL BRONZES WERE MADE BY THE XIONGNU. THEIR TOMBS AT NOIN ULA, MONGOLIA, WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN MANY CHINESE ITEMS, SUCH AS SILK AND BRONZE MIRRORS, BESIDES THEIR OWN BRONZE PLAQUES AND ORNAMENTS.

PROVENANCE

EX RUPERT WACE LTD, GROSVENOR HOUSE ANTIQUES FAIR, 2002

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