

Finch & C^o



A RARE ENGLISH PAPIER-MACHÉ 'EROTIC' SNUFF BOX
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PAINTEW WITH A VERY RARE SCENE OF A LATE 18TH / EARLY 19TH CENTURY 'ROSY' CHEEKED SAILOR, ON A PACIFIC ISLAND, IN AN 'AROUSW' STATE, OFFERING FOR EXCHANGE WITH A SEATED FEMALE ISLANDER A GREEN 'SILK' OR 'VELVET' RIBBON IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS ADVANCES, WHILE SHE RAISES HER RED SILK SKIRT WHILE ACCEPTING THE RIBBON, HER HAIR ADORNED WITH FEATHERS AND JEWELS HANGING AROUND HER NECK.

HIS FELLOW SHIPMATES IN A SMALL ROWING BOAT NEARBY WITH THEIR SHIP FURTHER OUT TO SEA

ATTRIBUTED TO RAVEN

ENGLAND

CIRCA 1800

SIZE: 10CMDIA, 2.4CMHIGH – 4 INS DIA, 1 INS HIGH

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LITERATURE

BY THE MIDDLE OF THE 19TH CENTURY 'SNUFFING' WOULD NO LONGER BE A FASHIONABLE HABIT, BUT IN 1800'S THERE WAS NO SIGN THAT IN ONLY A FEW DECADES SNUFF TAKING WOULD HAVE BEEN REPLACED IN POLITE SOCIETY BY THE PUFFING OF CIGARS AND PIPES AND BY THE NEW FAD OF CIGARETTE SMOKING. AMONGST THE ARISTOCRACY THE HABIT FLOURISHED AND KING GEORGE III HAD SNUFF SPECIALLY BLENDED FOR HIM BY THE TOBACCONISTS FRIBOURG AND TREYER WHICH HE BOUGHT BY THE POUND. THUS THE DEMAND CONTINUED FOR BEAUTIFUL BOXES TO CONTAIN THE EXOTIC POWDER. LORD PETERSHAM, AN AVID COLLECTOR OF BOTH SNUFF AND BOXES WAS SAID TO HAVE 'USED A DIFFERENT BOX ON EVERY DAY OF THE YEAR'.

ALTHOUGH EROTIC SCENES ON SNUFF BOXES, USUALLY HIDDEN INSIDE, OFTEN IN SECRET COMPARTMENTS, THEY TEND TO BE OF EUROPEANS, BOTH ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL. IT IS VERY RARE, IF NOT UNIQUE TO FIND A SNUFF BOX DISPLAYING AN EROTIC SCENE OF A 'NATIVE' PACIFIC ISLANDER AND A EUROPEAN, ENGLISH SAILOR.

PROVENANCE

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