Finch & Co



**AN EXCEPTIONAL AND RARE RENAISSANCE SILVER GILT MOUNTED RHINOCEROS HORN CUP**

AN EXCEPTIONAL AND RARE RENAISSANCE SILVER GILT MOUNTED RHINOCEROS HORN CUP WITH FOLIATE 'ACANTHUS' LEAF MOUNT, ABOVE A TURNED STEM AND REPOUSSÉ OVAL BASE WITH DISPLAYING MILITARY 'TROPHY' EMBLEMS, THE CUP SURMOUNTED WITH A SILVER GILT ROMAN SOLDIER IN ARMOUR HOLDING A SHIELD AND SPEAR TO HIS SIDES

RHINOCEROS HORN, SILVER, GILT

GERMAN / CHINA

LATE 16TH CENTURY TO EARLY 17TH CENTURY / 1580 - 1620

SIZE: 15CM HIGH - 6 INS HIGH (TO TIP OF FIGURE)

CF: OLD COLLECTORS NUMBER: SIL/2046A/A

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PROVENANCE:

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION

CF: OLD COLLECTORS NUMBER: SIL/2046A/A TO UNDERSIDE

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**LITERATURE**

NOTE: THE CHINESE RHINOCEROS HORN LIBATION CUP WAS AN EARLY EXOTIC AND LUXURIOUS IMPORT TO THE WESTERN WORLD, PARTICULARLY EUROPE. IT WAS BELIEVED TO POSSESS BOTH HIGH VALUE AND PROTECTIVE PROPERTIES, MAKING IT A SOUGHT-AFTER ITEM. CONSEQUENTLY, THEY FOUND THEIR WAY INTO ROYAL COURTS ACROSS EUROPE, WHERE SKILLED SILVER AND GOLDSMITHS COMPETED TO EMBELLISH THEM WITH THEIR INDIVIDUAL 'FANTASIES'. FOR INSTANCE, THE ARTISAN CRAFTED A FINELY DETAILED SILVER-GILT SUPPORT, ENHANCING THE CUP'S AESTHETIC APPEAL. THE CUP WAS THEN PLACED IN THE COURT'S 'KUNSTKAMMER', A COLLECTION OF ARTISTIC TREASURES, WHERE IT WAS ADMIRED AND APPRECIATED FOR ITS ARTISTIC SIGNIFICANCE. HOWEVER, IT WAS ALSO OCCASIONALLY USED FOR DRINKING, AS THE RHINOCEROS HORN RENDERED ANY 'POISONOUS' LIQUID SAFE FOR THE PRINCELY PATRON TO CONSUME !

**PROVENANCE**

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION