Finch & Co

A COMPREHENSIVE COLLECTION OF NINETY-SIX ROUNDELS FROM A 'GANJIFA' GAME

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GANJIFA, ALSO KNOWN AS 'GANJAPA' OR 'GÂNJAPHÂ', IS A CARD GAME AND TYPE OF PLAYING CARDS

THE CIRCULAR CARDS ARE POLYCHROMED, FEATURING VARIOUS SCENES OF DAILY COURTLY LIFE, BATTLES, AND HUNTING. THEY ARE HOUSED IN A RECTANGULAR BOX, WHICH IS ALSO PROFUSELY DECORATED WITH HUNTING SCENES AND COURTLY PROCESSIONS

THE CARDS ARE HOUSED IN THEIR ORIGINAL RECTANGULAR CASE WITH A SLIDING LID, WHICH IS ALSO ADORNED WITH PROCESSIONAL SCENES

PAPER, CARD, WOOD, POLYCHROME

INDIA

19TH CENTURY

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SIZE: ROUNDELS 5.2CM DIA. - 2 INS DIA. / BOX: 7CM HIGH, 14.5CM WIDE, 7CM DEEP - 2¾ INS HIGH, 5¾ INS WIDE, 2¾ DEEP

LITERATURE

ORIGINATING IN PERSIA, THE CARDS ARE NOW WIDELY ASSOCIATED WITH MUGHAL INDIA. TRADITIONALLY HANDPRINTED BY ARTISANS, THEY GAINED IMMENSE POPULARITY AT THE MUGHAL COURT, WHERE ELABORATE SETS WERE CRAFTED, INCLUDING OUR EXQUISITE EXAMPLE. THE GAME IN INDIA HAS A HISTORY DATING BACK TO APPROXIMATELY 1600, WITH THE SERVING RULES ESTABLISHED FROM THAT ERA.

PROVENANCE

EX EUROPEAN COLLECTION