

Finch & C^o



A RARE TRAVELLING DEVOTIONAL ORTHODOX PLAQUE DEPICTING ST JOHN THE BAPTIST

A RARE TRAVELLING DEVOTIONAL ORTHODOX PLAQUE DEPICTING ST JOHN THE BAPTIST HOLDING HIS OWN HEAD

WALRUS IVORY

AGED PATINA AND COLOUR, AGED FISSURES CONSISTENT WITH AGE AND USE

OLD LABEL TO THE REVERSE READING: '....

NOVGOROD, RUSSIA

15TH / 16TH CENTURY

SIZE: 8CM HIGH, 5CM WIDE - 3 INS HIGH, 2 INS WIDE

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PROVENANCE:

EX PRIVATE USA COLLECTION, FORMED IN THE 1960'S / 70'S

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LITERATURE

THE CATHEDRAL OF ST SOPHIA STANDS AS THE OLDEST ORTHODOX CHURCH IN RUSSIA, HAVING BEEN CONSTRUCTED BETWEEN 1045 AND 1052. NOTABLY, ST SOPHIA CATHEDRAL WAS THE PIONEERING CHURCH IN SLAVIC LANDS TO INCORPORATE LOCAL CHARACTERISTICS THAT DIVERGED FROM THE BYZANTINE STYLE PREVALENT IN THE EASTERN CHURCH. THESE BYZANTINE FEATURES AND STYLE ARE DISTINCTLY EVIDENT WITHIN THE INTRICATELY CARVED PANEL. HISTORICALLY, NOVGOROD SERVED AS A CRUCIAL JUNCTURE ON THE ANCIENT TRADE ROUTE CONNECTING THE VARANGIANS TO THE GREEKS.

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