



## Fine European Works of Art & Clocks (29 Sep 2020 B)

Tue, 29th Sep 2020

### Viewing:

Thu 24 Sept, 11am - 5pm  
Fri 25 Sept, 11am - 5pm  
Sat 26 Sept, 11am - 4.30pm  
Sun 27 Sept, 11am - 4.30pm  
Mon 28 Sept, 11am - 5pm

Email Specialist, [Harry Fletcher](#) to book a viewing appointment.

### Lot 3

**Estimate:** £1500 - £2500 + Fees

#### **A SOUTH ARABIAN SABAEAN ALABASTER TABLET OR STELE FRAGMENT, CIRCA 2ND CENTURY B.C. - 3RD CENTURY A.D.**

A SOUTH ARABIAN SABAEAN ALABASTER TABLET OR STELE FRAGMENT, CIRCA 2ND CENTURY B.C. - 3RD CENTURY A.D. of rectangular form, carved with inscription of three lines of sabaean script, on a metal stand, the fragment 14cm high and 18.5cm long, 16.5cm high and 20cm long in total

Provenance: A Private Collection of a Diplomat, 1970s

The Sabaeans were a civilisation of people of South Arabia in pre-Islamic times, originally entering from the north. They were founders of the kingdom of Saba' the biblical Sheba, being mentioned in the books of Job, Joel, Ezekiel, and Isaiah. Excavations in central Yemen suggest that the Sabaean civilization began as early as the 10th–12th centuries BC. Saba' was rich in spices and agricultural products and had great trading routes by inland caravan and by sea. For centuries it controlled Bāb el-Mandeb, the straits leading into the Red Sea, and also established many colonies on the African coast. The Sabaeans disappeared by the 6th century, as they were successively overrun by Persian adventurers and by the Muslim Arabs. A stele or occasionally stela is a stone or wooden slab, erected in the ancient world as a monument. Generally they were taller than their width, often being used for funerary or commemorative purposes. They were also used in ancient Greek and Roman world as government notices or as boundary markers.

Dimensions: the fragment 14cm high and 18.5cm long, 16.5cm high and 20cm long in total