

Finch & C^o



A RARE PAIR OF TURNED LIGNUM VITAE WOOD CANDLESTICKS

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CIRCA 1760

SIZE : 20 CM HIGH – 8 INS HIGH

THE FIRST REFERENCE TO THE USE OF LIGNUM IN TURNERY OCCURS IN AN INVENTORY OF 1605 '2 PAIRE OF BLACK LIGNU VITE BOWLLES'. ANOTHER OCCURS IN SAMUEL PEPYS' DIARY ON NOV. 21 ST 1660 ; 'THIS MORNING MY COZEN , THOMAS PEPYS , THE TURNER SENT ME A CUP OF LIGNUM VITAE FOR A TOKEN . '

LIGNUM VITAE IS IMPERMEABLE TO LIQUIDS AND WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE VALUABLE CURATIVE QUALITIES WHICH PASSED INTO THE DRINK OR MIXTURE COMPOUNDED IN IT . IT THEREFORE BECAME THE WOOD FOR TURNING DRINKING BOWLS , GOBLETS , MORTARS AND PESTLE ETC. A PAIR OF TURNED LIGNUM VITAE CANDLESTICKS ARE THUS VERY RARE .

LITERATURE

SEE : FINCH AND CO CATALOGUE NO. 3 , ITEM NO. 3 FOR A LIGNUM VITAE MORTAR AND PESTLE