

Finch & C^o



A HAWAIIAN CALABASH AND LID TURNED FROM KOU WOOD

A HAWAIIAN CALABASH AND LID TURNED FROM KOU WOOD . AN OLD PAPER LABEL TO THE UNDERSIDE OF THE LID . FINE GLOSSY PATINA

CIRCA 1870'S – 1880'S

SIZE : 8 CM HIGH , 11 CM WIDE – 3¼ INS HIGH , 4¼ INS WIDE

THE FIRST EUROPEAN WOOD TURNING LATHES WERE INTRODUCED TO HAWAII IN THE 1830'S BRINGING TO AN END THE TRADITION OF HAND CARVING POI BOWLS ON THE ISLAND . WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE COMMERCIAL LATHE A NEW SOPHISTICATED SYNTHESIS OF WESTERN AND HAWAIIAN FORMS EMERGED . WESTERN CRAFTSMEN REFINED AND POPULARISED THE TRADITIONAL HAWAIIAN BOWL AND THOSE MADE WITH COVERS WERE PRIMARILY MADE FOR DISPLAY OR PRESENTATION PIECES .

ONE CABINETMAKER WILHELM FISCHER WAS COMMISSIONED BY KING KAMEHAMEHA IV TO TURN A PEDESTAL BOWL AND COVER FOR PRESENTATION IN 1858 TO AN ENGLISH NAVAL CAPTAIN CM MONTRESSOR . WHILST VISITING THE ISLAND HE MET THE KING AND HIS WIFE QUEEN EMMA AND INVITED THE KING ABOARD HIS SHIP TO SAIL AROUND THE ISLAND , THE KING ACCEPTED AND A WARM FRIENDSHIP DEVELOPED . MONTRESSOR WROTE OF THE BOWL PRESENTED TO HIM IN HIS MEMOIRS 'ON PARTING HE PRESENTED ME WITH A VASE WROUGHT Â€ IN NATIVE WOOD , MOST BEAUTIFULLY POLISHED AND ROUNDED ; THE WOOD IS OF A RICH BROWN AND TAKES THE POLISH WELL . IT WILL BE A PLEASANT MEMENTO TO ME OF HE WHOM I HAVE LEARNT TO REGARD AS A FRIEND .'

LITERATURE

SEE : FINCH AND CO 2002 CATALOGUE ; NO. 15 TO NOTE CAPTAIN COOK'S COMMENT ON HAWAIIAN BOWLS