

Finch & C^o



A FINE AND RARE GEORGIAN CARVED AND TURNED LIGNUM VITAE ENGLISH TILLER

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PROBABLY MADE FOR A THAMES LAUNCH

LATE 18TH CENTURY

SIZE : 75.5 CM LONG – 29¼ INS LONG

LITERATURE

SEE FINCH AND CO CAT. NO. 3 (ITEM NO. 3) FOR A LIGNUM VITAE WOOD MORTAR

LIGNUM VITAE, 'WOOD OF LIFE', WAS FIRST IMPORTED INTO ENGLAND AROUND 1515 FROM THE WEST INDIES AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND WAS THOUGHT TO BE A CURE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES.

LIGNUM VITAE CONTAINS AN OIL THAT IS IMMISCIBLE WITH SEA WATER AND MAKES THE WOOD IMPERMEABLE AND SO IT LENDS ITSELF TO USE ON SHIPS. IT IS SO HARD AND DENSE THAT WHEN SEASONED IT WEIGHS SOME 88 LB PER CUBIC FOOT, AND WHEN TURNED OR CARVED IT WILL NEVER WARP OR TWIST.