Finch & Co



TURNED CANDLESTICKS MADE FROM PETRIFIED WOOD

AN UNUSUAL PAIR OF TURNED CANDLESTICKS MADE FROM PETRIFIED WOOD

ENGLISH

CIRCA 1850

SIZE: 23CM HIGH, 11.5CM DIA (BASE) – 9 INS HIGH, 4½ INS DIA. (BASE)

LITERATURE

MUDSTONES AND SHALES, PARTICULARLY WHERE THEY ARE ASSOCIATED WITH COAL DEPOSITS, ARE GOOD LOCATIONS FOR FINDING FOSSILS OF PLANT PARTS. COAL MINERS THEREFORE WOULD SOMETIMES FIND FOSSIL DEPOSITS WHILST MINING AN UNDERGROUND SEAM OF COAL.

PETRIFIED WOOD USUALLY DATES FROM THE LATE TRIASSIC (193 MILLION YEARS AGO) AND THE ORIGINAL PLANT MATERIAL HAS BEEN COMPLETELY REPLACED BY MINERALS. THIS PROCESS WHICH, CELL BY CELL PROCEEDS VERY SLOWLY IS KNOWN AS PETRIFICATION. WHOLE FORESTS HAVE BEEN FOUND PRESERVED IN THIS WAY IN WYOMING AND ARIZONA IN THE U.S.A.