

# Finch & C<sup>o</sup>



## **RARE AND UNUSUAL ENGLISH CARVED BOXWOOD LOTTERY TEETOTUM OR GAMBLING BALL**

A RARE AND UNUSUAL ENGLISH CARVED BOXWOOD LOTTERY TEETOTUM OR GAMBLING BALL

INCISED ON 32 SIDES WITH THE NUMBERS 1 TO 32

18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 5.5CM DIA – 2¼ INS DIA

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 3, ITEM NO. 42, CATALOGUE NO. 10, ITEM NO. 3, CATALOGUE NO. 20, ITEM NO. 42, AND CATALOGUE NO. 21, ITEM NO. 35, FOR MARINE IVORY EXAMPLES

## **LITERATURE**

LOTTERIES FIRST BEGAN TO BE AN ACCEPTABLE FORM OF RAISING MONEY FOR GOVERNMENT FUNDS UNDER ELIZABETH I IN 1568-69 WHEN URGENT REPAIRS TO THE HARBOURS AND COASTAL FORTIFICATIONS OF ENGLAND WERE NEEDED TO REPEL ANY SEABORNE INVASION FROM THE SPANISH. LOTTERIES THEN BECAME ESTABLISHED AS A LEGITIMATE MEANS OF INCREASING REVENUE BY SUCCESSIVE ACTS OF PARLIAMENT. EVEN UNDER THE STRICT PURITAN RULE OF OLIVER CROMWELL DURING THE 'COMMONWEALTH' THEY WERE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE AND WERE A VERY LUCRATIVE SOURCE OF GOVERNMENT INCOME.

WHEN GAMBLING, TEETOTUM BALLS ARE PREFERABLE TO SPINNING DICE, BECAUSE WHEN THROWN THE FACETED NUMBERED SIDES OF A BALL GIVE AN EQUAL CHANCE OF ANY NUMBER TURNING UP. TEETOTUMS GIVE THE GAMBLER MUCH MORE OF A WINNING CHANCE.