

Finch & C^o



A VERY RARE SCOTTISH TURNED AND POLISHED BLACK STONE PUNCH BOWL

A VERY RARE SCOTTISH TURNED AND POLISHED BLACK STONE PUNCH BOWL . INSCRIBED AROUND THE RIM: 'I WAS MADE AND OF S? KATRENS STON. FILL ME FULL & DRINK ME OUT , IN INVERARO' (TOP LINE) AND : ' & FILL ME FULL AGAIN ? WILLIAM BROWN ? MARGERET DOBBIE IN BO:NESS 1754' (BOTTOM LINE)

CIRCA 1754

SIZE : 10 CM HIGH , 23 CM DIA – 4 INS HIGH , 9 INS DIA

LITERATURE

THE SHAPE OF THIS UNUSUAL SCOTTISH BOWL IS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE DELFT POTTERY BOWLS OF THE MID 18 TH CENTURY , THE MAJORITY OF WHICH WERE PROBABLY INTENDED FOR THE MAKING OF PUNCH . A FACT BORNE OUT BY THE MANY AND VARIOUS INSCRIPTIONS TO DO WITH DRINK FOUND ON THEM . THE EARLIEST DATE FOUND ON A DELFT BOWL IS 1681 AND THE LATEST 1779 . THIS STONE EXAMPLE IS DATED 1754 AND WAS PROBABLY MADE TO

COMMEMORATE THE MARRIAGE OF WILLIAM BROWN (BROWN ?) AND MARGERET DOBBIE .

TURNED FROM 'S? KATREN'S STONE' IT IS FASHIONED FROM THE FINEST AND MOST DURABLE KIND OF SLATE FOUND IN SCOTLAND , THAT WAS USED FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF TABLES AND CHIMNEY PIECES . IT IS SOMETIMES KNOWN AS 'DACHSCHIEFER' SLATE .

'INVERARO' IS MOST PROBABLY THE GEORGIAN TOWN OF INVERARAY FROM WHICH ACROSS THE WATERS OF LOCH FYNE , LIES THE TINY VILLAGE OF ST CATHERINE'S . THE THIRD DUKE OF ARGYLL , HEAD OF THE POWERFUL CAMBELL CLAN REBUILT INVERARAY IN 1745 AS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF AN 18 TH CENTURY PLANNED TOWN ESTABLISHING IT AS A LEGAL AND COMMERCIAL CENTRE FOR THE REGION , AS WELL AS DISTANCING THE TOWNS INHABITANTS FROM HIS IMPRESSIVE AND NEWLY REBUILT CASTLE .