

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



**A FINE LARGE WEDGWOOD BLACK BASALT LIBRARY BUST OF THE ANCIENT GREEK EPIC POET HOMER**

**CIRCA 1780–1812**

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**IMPRESSED WEDGWOOD MARK 1780–1812**

**LATE 18TH / EARLY 19TH CENTURY**

**SIZE: 59CM HIGH – 23¼ INS HIGH**

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## **LITERATURE**

HOMER, GREEK AUTHOR OF THE 'ILIAD' AND THE 'ODYSSEY', IS TRADITIONALLY THOUGHT TO HAVE LIVED AROUND 950

BC. MOST REPRESENTATIONS OF HIM SEEM TO BE BASED ON A BUST IN THE NAPLES ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM. WEDGWOOD OBTAINED A PLASTER CAST OF THIS BUST FROM HOSKINS AND GRANT, MOULDER AND CASTER IN PLASTER TO THE ROYAL ACADEMY, AND IT WAS PRODUCED IN BLACK BASALTES, AFTER WILLIAM HACKWOOD HAD WORKED ON IT, IN TWO SIZES IN 1775. JOSIAH WEDGWOOD HAD A HIGH REGARD FOR HACKWOOD'S MODELLING AND WROTE TO THOMAS BENTLEY IN 1776 WISHING THEY HAD 'HALF A DOZEN HACKWOODS'.

IT WAS DELIBERATE POLICY ON WEDGWOOD'S BEHALF TO MAKE HIS POTTERY CONSIDERABLY CHEAPER THAN MARBLE AND MUCH MORE DURABLE THAN PLASTER, AND WHEN GIVEN A SLIGHTLY POLISHED SURFACE IT WAS AS ATTRACTIVE AS EITHER, AND ALSO A RIVAL TO ANY FINELY WORKED BRONZE.

#### **PROVENANCE**

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