

Finch & C^o



MAGNIFICENT AND LARGE LIGNUM VITAE WOOD SAILORS FID

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THE END CAPPED WITH A RING OF IRON. ENGLISH

LATE 18TH - EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 74.5CM HIGH, 12.5CM DIA – 29¼ INS HIGH, 5 INS DIA

LITERATURE

ON A LARGE SAILING VESSEL THE SAIL-MAKER HAD PLENTY OF WORK TO DO REPAIRING OR MAKING NEW SAILS. THE FID WAS AN INDISPENSABLE PIECE OF EQUIPMENT IN THE SAIL-MAKERS KIT USED FOR WORKING ROPE AND SPLICING IT, AND FOR OPENING HOLES IN A CANVAS SAIL.

OF VARIOUS SIZES FIDS WERE MADE OF WOOD, METAL AND WHALEBONE. SOMETIMES THE CARE TAKEN IN MAKING SUCH TOOLS CONVEYS A SENSE OF THE REGARD THE SAILOR HAD FOR HIS WORK AS WELL AS THE TOOLS HE HAD TO USE.

THE HIGH STANDARD OF CRAFTSMANSHIP ALSO SUGGESTS THE LONG HOURS OFTEN AVAILABLE ON BOARD SHIP DURING A SEA VOYAGE.