

Finch & C^o



**A FINE EARLY GREEN STAINED IVORY PAPER KNIFE INLAID WITH A PICQUE WORKED CHINOISERIE DESIGN OF A BIRD IN A
BRANCH**

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BRANCH

LATE 17TH - 18TH CENTURY

SIZE : 30.5 CM LONG X 4 CM WIDE

12 INS LONG X 1½ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

PAPER KNIVES HAVE BEEN USED FOR AS LONG AS BOOKS HAVE BEEN MADE, LONG BEFORE THE VICTORIAN INVENTION OF GUMMED ENVELOPES IN 1840. PAPER KNIVES WERE REQUIRED AS A PRELIMINARY TO READING A PRECIOUS HAND PRINTED BOOK IN ORDER TO CUT THE PAGES, THEY WERE ALSO USED BY THE 'HAND FOLDERS' OF BOOK LEAVES.