

Finch & C^o



AN ENGLISH VICTORIAN CEREMONIAL TIPSTAFF OF WOOD AND SILVER

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19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 11.5CMLONG, 1.5CMDIA

LITERATURE

A TIPSTAFF HAS ITS ORIGINS IN THE 16TH CENTURY WHEN THE WORD WAS USED TO DENOTE A METAL TIPPED STAFF THAT WAS A SIGN OF OFFICE OR AUTHORITY. TIPSTAFFS OFTEN HAVE ENDS THAT UNSCREW TO REVEAL A SMALL COMPARTMENT WHERE A WRIT COULD BE CONCEALED. THESE WRITS COULD EITHER BE FROM A LAW COURT OR FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CROWN SUMMONING A PEER TO PARLIAMENT. THE MORE ORDINARY USE OF THE TIPSTAFF IS THE ONE CARRIED BY A SHERIFF'S OFFICER OR A CONSTABLE IN THE COURSE OF HIS DUTIES, AND THIS DEVELOPED IN THE 19TH CENTURY INTO THE COLOURFULLY PAINTED TRUNCHEON.