

Finch & C^o



DUTCH STEEL TWO TINE CARVING FORK WITH BALUSTER STEM AND MATCHING KNIFE

AN INTERESTING DUTCH STEEL TWO TINE CARVING FORK WITH BALUSTER STEM AND MATCHING
KNIFE

THE HANDLES INSET WITH MARINE IVORY. THE FORK HANDLE ENGRAVED WITH REPRESENTATIONS OF THE SYMBOLS OF
CHRIST'S PASSION AND TO THE REVERSE A PRAYER. THE KNIFE BLADE ETCHED WITH A TEXT, THE HANDLE ILLEGIBLY
INSCRIBED WITH PROSE

1ST HALF OF THE 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: 20CM LONG – 8 INS LONG (EACH)

LITERATURE

CUTLERY HAS LONG BEEN OF INTEREST TO COLLECTORS WHO JEALOUSLY STORED MUCH OF IT IN THE DRAWERS OF
CURIOSITY CABINETS ENABLING IT TO SURVIVE THE CENTURIES UNDER FAVOURABLE CIRCUMSTANCES. IT REMAINED AN
INDIVIDUAL AND PERSONAL POSSESSION UNTIL WELL INTO THE 18TH CENTURY AND STILL APPLIES TODAY TO CUTLERY
THAT IS PRESENTED AS A BAPTISM GIFT. APART FROM IT BEING A STATUS SYMBOL, ONE OF THE REASONS THAT CUTLERY
REMAINED A HIGHLY PERSONAL POSSESSION FOR SO LONG WAS PROBABLY THE FEAR OF POISONING, AND IT IS
THEREFORE NOT SURPRISING THAT PEOPLE KEPT IT CLOSE OFTEN SUSPENDED FROM A BELT OR CHAIN OR LATER IN
THE 18TH CENTURY IN LARGE POCKETS.