Finch & Co



SINGLE EDGED ENGLISH KNIFE AND SHEATH

A SLENDER SINGLE EDGED ENGLISH KNIFE AND SHEATH
WITH AN IVORY HANDLE IN A SEWN LEATHER SHEATH, THE BLADE SLIGHTLY CORRODED
15TH – 16TH CENTURY
SIZE: 25.5CM LONG – 10 INS LONG

LITERATURE

DURING THE GREATER PART OF THE MIDDLE AGES THE KNIFE WAS NOT SIMPLY AN OBJECT OF DOMESTIC USE. IT WAS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF A MAN'S PERSONAL EQUIPMENT. REPRESENTATIONS OF MEDIEVAL KNIVES IN EARLY PAINTINGS, ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS AND WOODCUTS SHOW THAT TRADITIONAL FORMS THAT HAD PROVED THEIR WORTH REMAINED UNCHANGED OVER 2 OR 3 CENTURIES WHICH MAKES EXACT DATING DIFFICULT. THIS SINGLE BLADED KNIFE PROBABLY DERIVED FROM THE MILITARY DAGGER AND THE ORDINARY DOMESTIC KNIFE AND WAS THUS DESIGNED TO COMBINE BOTH THE FUNCTIONS OF A WEAPON AND AN EATING KNIFE.