

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



**FINE SAILORS WHALEBONE FID, ENGLISH OR AMERICAN**  
A FINE SAILORS WHALEBONE FID, ENGLISH OR AMERICAN  
OLD SMOOTH PATINA  
CIRCA 1850 – 60  
SIZE: 33CMLONG – 13 INS LONG

## **LITERATURE**

FIDS WERE HANDCRAFTED UTILITARIAN OBJECTS ON BOARD SHIP FOR INSERTING THIMBLES INTO PREPARED ROPE, REAMING OUT GROMMETS, SPLICING ROPE, WORKING KNOTS AND FOR OPENING HOLES IN A CANVAS SAIL, BECAUSE SAIL MAKERS PREFERRED SPREADING THE THREADS OF THE CANVAS RATHER THAN CUTTING A HOLE IN IT. THE POINT OF THE FID, WHICH COULD NOT BE TOO SHARP OR IT WOULD SNAG THE YARNS, HAD TO BE PROTECTED AS IF IT BECAME DAMAGED A RAGGED POINT COULD RUIN A SAIL BY CATCHING OR TEARING IT. THUS A SMOOTH SURFACE WAS MOST IMPORTANT.