

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



## **NAPOLEONIC PRISONER OF WAR BONE, WOOD AND BRASS MODEL OF A 16 GUN THREE MASTED MERCHANT VESSEL**

A WELL DETAILED NAPOLEONIC PRISONER OF WAR BONE, WOOD AND BRASS MODEL OF A 16 GUN THREE MASTED  
MERCHANT VESSEL

WITH COMPLETE RIGGING AND WITH TWO LIFEBOATS, A PLANKED AND PINNED HULL, BRASS MOVEABLE GUN FLAPS, TWO  
ANCHORS AND A CARVED BONE FIGURE-HEAD. MOUNTED ON A MAHOGANY AND BONE INLAID STAND ON FOUR FEET. TEN  
BONE AND WOOD MOVEABLE MODEL CANNON REMAINING

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 72CM HIGH, 105CMLONG, 27CM WIDE – 28¼ INS HIGH, 41¼ INS LONG, 10½ INS WIDE

## **LITERATURE**

SOME OF THE BEST COLLECTABLE SHIP MODELS WERE MADE BY FRENCHMAN CAPTURED BY THE BRITISH DURING THE  
NAPOLEONIC WARS OF 1792 – 1815. DURING THIS PERIOD SOME 122,000 CAPTURED SOLDIERS AND SAILORS WERE  
BROUGHT TO BRITAIN AND OWING TO A LACK OF PRISONS IN WHICH TO HOUSE THEM ALL, PRISON SHIPS KNOWN AS  
'HULKS' WERE USED. THESE HULKS WERE SHIPS STRIPPED OF ALL MASTS, RIGGING, SAILS, DECORATIONS AND  
EMBELLISHMENTS RESULTING IN A MISERABLE AND UNCOMFORTABLE COMMUNAL EXISTENCE FOR THE INMATES. THESE  
PRISON SHIPS WERE MOORED IN A VARIETY OF RIVERS AND HARBOURS AROUND THE COAST INCLUDING PLYMOUTH,  
PORTSMOUTH AND CHATHAM.

ALTHOUGH OFFICERS AND THE LOWER RANKS RECEIVED A DAILY ALLOWANCE THERE WAS LITTLE LEFT FOR LUXURIES  
OR TO PARTAKE IN THE FAVOURITE POPULAR PURSUIT OF GAMBLING. NO PROVISION WAS MADE FOR THE INMATES  
GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT AND SO SOME TURNED TO PRODUCING DECORATIVE ARTICLES TO BE SOLD AT LOCAL MARKETS.  
THIS ENTERPRISE CLEARLY HAD THE AUTHORITIES APPROVAL AS A PARLIAMENTARY REPORT OF JULY 1800 STATES, 'THE  
PRISONERS IN ALL THE DEPOTS IN THE COUNTRY ARE AT FULL LIBERTY TO EXERCISE THEIR INDUSTRY WITHIN THE  
PRISONS, IN MANUFACTURING AND SELLING ARTICLES THEY MAY THINK PROPER..... AND BY MEANS OF THIS PRIVILEGE  
SOME OF THEM HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO CARRY OFF UPON THEIR RELEASE MORE THAN 100 GUINEAS EACH.'  
PRISONER OF WAR WORK SHIP MODELS WERE SELDOM MADE TO SCALE AND DID NOT PRETEND TO BE ACCURATE AND  
FAITHFUL PORTRAYALS OF A PARTICULAR VESSEL. THEY WERE OFTEN MADE COLLECTIVELY WITH INDIVIDUALS  
COMBINING THEIR SPECIALIST SKILLS. A WELL MADE SHIP MODEL WAS MEANT TO BE A MEMENTO OR SOUVENIR OF THE  
NAPOLEONIC PERIOD AND WERE SOLD BY THE FRENCH PRISONERS OF WAR AS WORKS OF ART.