Finch & Co

SAILORS CARVED WHALEBONE FID

A SAILORS CARVED WHALEBONE FID
OLD SMOOTH PATINA
MID 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 22CM LONG – 8½ INS LONG
SEE FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 13, ITEM NO. 91, FOR A LARGE EXAMPLE OF A LIGNUM VITAE FID

LITERATURE

THE FID WAS A STRICTLY UTILITARIAN SAILORS TOOL AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY HAVE LITTLE DECORATION. OF A CARROT SHAPE WITH A SMOOTH SURFACE THEY WERE HANDMADE ON BOARDSHIP OF A HARDWOOD SUCH AS LIGNUM VITAE OR OF WHALEBONE. RANGING IN SIZE FROM 8 INCHES TO 20 INCHES OR MORE FIDS WERE USED FOR INSERTING THIMBLES INTO PREPARED ROPE, WORKING KNOTS, SPLICING ROPE AND FOR OPENING HOLES IN A CANVAS SAIL BECAUSE SAIL MAKERS WOULD SPREAD THE THREADS OF THE CANVAS RATHER THAN CUT A HOLE IN IT.