

Finch & C^o



NETHERLANDS BRASS AND IRON CASED LODESTONE OR MAGNETITE

A DECORATED NETHERLANDS BRASS AND IRON CASED LODESTONE OR MAGNETITE
A MARINERS NAVIGATIONAL INSTRUMENT USED TO RE-MAGNETISE COMPASS NEEDLES

EARLY 18TH CENTURY

SIZE: 9CM HIGH, 4.5CM WIDE, 3.5CM DEEP – 3½ INS HIGH, 1¾ INS WIDE, 1½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE MARINE COMPASS EVOLVED FROM THE STEEL NEEDLE CASED IN A STRAW OR CORK AND FLOATED FREELY IN A BOWL OF WATER. THE LODESTONE WOULD BE PASSED ACROSS THE TOP AND MAGICALLY THE MAGNETISM IN THE NEEDLE WOULD BE REVIVED AND WOULD SHOW WHERE THE DIRECTION OF NORTH LAY. THE PILOT ON BOARD SHIP HAVING FOUND NORTH COULD THEN DETERMINE THE POSITION OF THE VESSEL BY REFERENCE TO THE PREVAILING WIND OR BY THE STARS SO THAT A CERTAIN COURSE COULD BE STEERED 'BY WIND' OR 'BY STARS'.