

Finch & C^o



FRENCH CARVING KNIFE AND FORK WITH IVORY HANDLES

AN UNUSUAL FRENCH CARVING KNIFE AND FORK WITH IVORY HANDLES DEPICTING PRIZE BULL'S HEADS WITH INLAID EYES

MD 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 36CM LONG (MAX) – 14¼ INS LONG (MAX)

LITERATURE

THE MARKET FOR CARVING SETS FLOURISHED IN THE 19TH CENTURY AND THEY WERE A POPULAR MARRIAGE GIFT. BEFORE THE 18TH CENTURY TO BE ASSIGNED THE OFFICE OF 'CARVER' AT A ROYAL OR ARISTOCRATIC TABLE WAS CONSIDERED AN HONOUR, A POSITION OF GREAT IMPORTANCE WHICH REQUIRED SKILL AND DEXTERITY. IT WAS A TRADITION, WHICH LASTED INTO THE 20TH CENTURY, ALTHOUGH TO A MUCH LESSER DEGREE, WHEN EVEN IN MODEST HOUSEHOLDS THE TASK OF CARVING THE JOINT OF MEAT, HOWEVER SMALL, ON A SUNDAY WAS A RITUAL ACCOMPLISHED BY THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY.