Finch & Co



RUSSIAN TULA CUT STEEL MINIATURE SEWING THREAD SWIFT OR WINDER

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A TURNED CENTRAL STEEL ROD HOLDING THE EXTENDING SWIFT STRIPS TERMINATING ON A FOLIATE DECORATED BASE PLATE, THE UNDERNEATH WITH AN OLD INVENTORY LABEL '16717'
EARLY 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 15CM HIGH – 6 INS HIGH

LITERATURE

SWIFTS HAD TO OPEN AND SHUT IN THE SAME WAY AS AN UMBRELLA. THE AXIS SPOKE OR CENTRAL ROD FACILITATES THIS MOVEMENT. THE STRIPS ARE JOINED WITH STEEL RINGS, AND A THUMBSCREW SET ON THE LOWER SHAFT KEEPS THE SWIFT IN THE DESIRED POSITION. A SKEIN OF SILK THREAD OR TAPESTRY YARN WAS WRAPPED TAUTLY AROUND ITS EXTENDED FRAME, WHICH WOULD THEN ROTATE AS THE THREAD WAS WOUND AROUND A SEWING SPOOL.
TULA IS A REGION IN RUSSIA IN THE SREDNEROSSKY HILLS TO THE SOUTH OF MOSCOW WHOSE CAPITAL TOWN OF TULA HAS BEEN FAMOUS FOR THE REMARKABLE METALWORK IT HAS PRODUCED SINCE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE ARMOURY BY PETER THE GREAT IN 1712. THE MASTERY OF THE CRAFTSMEN AND THEIR DIAMOND CUTTING OF THE STEELWORKS OF ART, AS WELL AS ARMS AND ARMOUR, WAS UNRIVALLED THROUGHOUT EUROPE.