Finch & Co



NAPOLEONIC FRENCH PRISONER OF WAR WORK CARVED IVORY 84 GUNSHIP-OF-THE-LINE HULL

A RARE NAPOLEONIC FRENCH PRISONER OF WAR WORK CARVED IVORY 84 GUNSHIP-OF-THE-LINE HULL WITH FINELY CARVED STERN FITTED OUT WITH MODEL IVORY CANNON STANDING ON AN EBONY BASE BOARD ENCIRCLED WITH TEN CARVED IVORY CAPSTAN THE WHOLE RESTING ON FOUR IVORY BUN FEET

CIRCA 1800 – 1820

SIZE: 8.5CM HIGH, 33CM LONG, 8CM WIDE – 3¼ INS HIGH, 13 INS LONG, 3 INS WIDE

14CM HIGH, 38.5CM WIDE, 17CM DEEP – 5½ INS HIGH, 15INS WIDE, 6¾ INS DEEP (WITH BASE)

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 15, ITEM NO. 8, FOR A NAPOLEONIC PRISONER OF WAR BONE MODEL OF A 78 GUNSHIP-OF-THE-LINE

LITERATURE

TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THE BRITISH DURING THE NAPOLEONIC WARS OF 1792-1815 FRENCHMEN WERE INCARCERATED IN THE HULLS OF DECOMMISSIONED NAVAL WAR SHIPS IN THE HARBOURS AND ESTUARIES AROUND THE COAST OF BRITAIN. STRIPPED OF ALL MASTS, RIGGING, SAILS AND EMBELLISHMENTS THESE HULKS HELD CAPTIVE UNKNOWN FRENCH CRAFTSMEN WHO, ATTEMPTING TO OVERCOME THE WRETCHEDNESS OF THEIR CRAMPED, CONFINED AND SORDID CONDITIONS, PATIENTLY MANUFACTURED WITH PRIMITIVE TOOLS AND MATERIALS ACCOMPLISHED WORKS OF ART. THESE MODELS WERE NOT MEANT TO BE ACCURATE PORTRAYALS OF ANY PARTICULAR VESSEL, BUT WERE INTENDED AS MEMENTOES. MOSTLY MADE OF ANIMAL BONES, IT IS UNUSUAL AND RARE TO FIND A LARGE EXAMPLE CONSTRUCTED OF IVORY.