Finch & Co



A RARE 'PIRATES' LODESTONE RING

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STEEL, SILVER, LODESTONE

NORTHERN EUROPE / 'THE HIGH SEAS'

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 3.5CM HIGH, 3CM WIDE, 3CM DEEP - 1⅓ INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE, 1¼ INS DEEP

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LITERATURE

LODESTONE IS ONE OF ONLY TWO MINERALS THAT IS FOUND NATURALLY MAGNETISED, THE OTHER, PYRRHOTITE, IS WEEKLY MAGNETIC. THE PROPERTY OF MAGNETISM WAS FIRST DISCOVERED IN ANTIQUITY THROUGH LODESTONES, AND PIECES SUSPENDED SO THAT THEY COULD TURN, WERE THE FIRST MAGNETIC COMPASSES. OF COURSE THE DISCOVERY WAS OF IMMENSE IMPORTANCE FOR EARLY NAVIGATION. IN 'MIDDLE ENGLISH' LODESTONE MEANT 'LEADING STONE' AND 'LODE' ONCE MEANT 'JOURNEY'.