

SA1228646

Antique Treen Straw Splitter

Price

GBP 135

| USD \$182 | EUR 158

Item Reference: SA1228646

Date of manufacture: 19th Century

Description

This is a 19th century straw splitter, with two different blade sizes, 5 and 4. An old owners label is on the underside of the base. It measures 11cm h x 4.7cm w. There have been many different English men, (at least half a dozen), who claim to have invented the humble straw splitter. But it is now widely accepted that it was invented by a French Prisoner of War whilst in England, documents refer to it being invented at Yaxley Barracks near Stilton around 1803-1806. It was a fantastic tool for splitting straw, rather than by using knives, which was laborious and inconsistent and not possible to cut it very fine. The straw splitter is a very simple tool consisting of circular central pins from which small knives or blades radiated out, from three to ten blades., like spokes. The central pin was used as a guide and a dampened straw was pushed through the blades where it was sliced into thin slithers. After splitting, the straw would be flattened by rollers so that it would then be ready for plaiting. The prisoners would use both the shiny yellow outside of the straw or the white inside of the straw or alternate between the two. This little invention enabled the French Pris...

Seller Details

Opus Antiques

North Devon United Kingdom



Tel: 07941 285 532

International Tel: +44 7941 285 532