

SA1229318

A GEORGE III CUDGEL OR STAVE WITH TRACES OF ORIGINAL PAINT - 'GOD SAVE THE KING'

Price

GBP 250

| USD \$338 | EUR 293

Item Reference: SA1229318

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Description

A very unusual painted hardwood cudgel or stave dating to the late 18th or early 19th century. Of heavy construction, with a long shaft terminating in a large rounded ball end, the surface retains traces of its original painted decoration, including the partially surviving inscription "GOD SAVE...", almost certainly originally "GOD SAVE THE KING." Further painted decoration survives above, although this is now too worn to identify with certainty. The exact purpose of the piece is uncertain. Its form could suggest a constable's stave or truncheon; however, these would more typically carry a royal cipher, arms or other device denoting the authority of the bearer. Expert referral has suggested that the patriotic "God Save the King" inscription would be highly unusual in this context. The patriotic wording may instead point towards a military association, possibly a sailor's cudgel or club, although this cannot be stated with certainty. The piece has considerable age and wear, particularly to the sides of the rounded ball end, consistent with prolonged and regular use. Some cracking to one side of the shaft. Measuring: 45 cm (18") in length. English, late 18th / early 19t...

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