

SA723364

Indian Manuscript Chettiar
Palm Leaf Bookkeeper's Knife
Antler Scribes Chit Tally
Antique

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA723364****Date of manufacture: 1880**

Description

Indian scribes folding stylus knife, circa 1850 Used by a South Indian Chettiar bookkeeper to trim and engrave dried palm leaf pages or chits (chitty) to keep account of loans and repayments. Steel hinge jointed stylus and hollow ground blade in a stag antler handle. In very good condition with no splits or excessive wear. Length 3,3/8" or 84mm, weight 55 grams. ***** The Chettiars lived in large houses with their extended families, a caste group with a mercantile caste occupation, traditionally involved in commerce, specifically with money changing, money lending and trading that developed into banking. Other than in southern India, prominent Chettiar communities established themselves in Southeast Asia, particularly Rangoon and Singapore. The wealth that derived from their occupation was strengthened by their diaspora in Burma, Sumatra and Malaysia. Wealthy members of this community developed a preference for massive, often fort-like mansions (called nattukottai) in Chettinad, many of which housed the extended family and which took up whole blocks in village streets. These mansions were sumptuously decorated. The fortunes of the Ch...

Seller Details

Andrew Nethercott Antiques

Cardiff Wales United Kingdom



Tel: 07855 851121

International Tel: +44 7855 851121