

Basic Detail Report



00019153

Title

Royal Naval Reserve Officer's Presentation Sword

Date

c 1900

Primary Maker

Wilkinson

Medium

Brass, fish skin, steel

Dimensions

Overall: 75 x 950 x 105 mm

Name

Sword

History

The naval officer's sword and scabbard symbolises the pomp of naval officers' dress and are an important ceremonial aspect of naval life. By the mid-nineteenth century, cutlers and manufacturers were active in many English industrial centres, notably Birmingham. The weapons were designed exclusively for use at sea and developed in the late eighteenth century, with the Royal Navy producing the first regulation sword pattern in 1905. Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth century, these regulations were regularly revised. Officers usually carried swords when landed, and many preferred to maintain two swords: one for ceremonial use, and one for combat. By the early twentieth-century, swords were seldom used during boarding action, but were retained for ceremonial and presentation use. This sword is thought to have been manufactured in the early twentieth century. Its manufacturer, Wilkinson, has been active in London from 1772, and underwent a significant expansion in the 1890s.