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Roman Bronze Bident

A large ancient Roman bronze bident of socketed form with two long parallel tines and three raised rings around the neck.

Ca. 1st - 2nd century AD.
Height: 25 1/2 in. (64.7 cm).



The use of this implement is debatable. It is not likely a farm tool as those would have been made of iron. The rings around the neck are an unnecessary decorative element. The bident may be a gladiatorial weapon for a retiarius, it may be for spear fishing, or simply for cooking over a fire.

Exhibited: Musee d'Art Classique de Mougins, France, 2011 - 2018.

Formerly in the Toman collection, 1960s; William Nicholas Roos collection, Fort Lauderdale; Musee d'Art Classique de Mougins, France, 2018.

inventory number: 8995

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