

# Spear-Shooting Spring-Loaded Fish Hook

By William Blausen

This is a Spear-Shooting Spring-Loaded Fish Hook from the Normandy region of France, made in 1888 by Emil Caresme, who referred to it as a “Needle Hook” (or Hamecon-Aiguille in the original French).

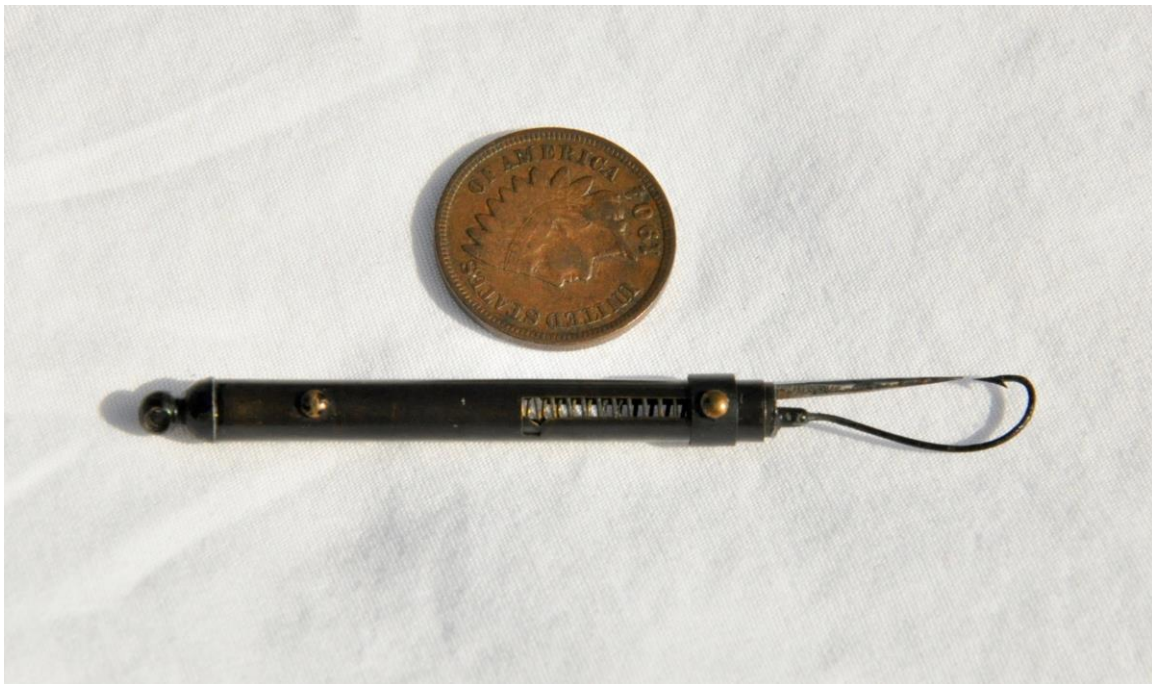
The tube is black japanned brass with brass rivets and has a brass spring inside. The bait hook is blued steel, with the impaling spike being also made of steel, and overall it looks unfished.

The most puzzling and fascinating aspect of this spring-hook is its size and scale, and why anyone would go to this extreme to catch a fish so small. The intended target could have in no way been for a fish greater than 6” in length, and that would be on the high side. A fish larger than this would surely have snapped the bait hook, the gauge of its wire being so small... (maybe not the 1<sup>st</sup> fish, but certainly the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>d</sup>), and using a set of pliers to remove the hook from a landed fish would surely have made this a “one and done” affair.

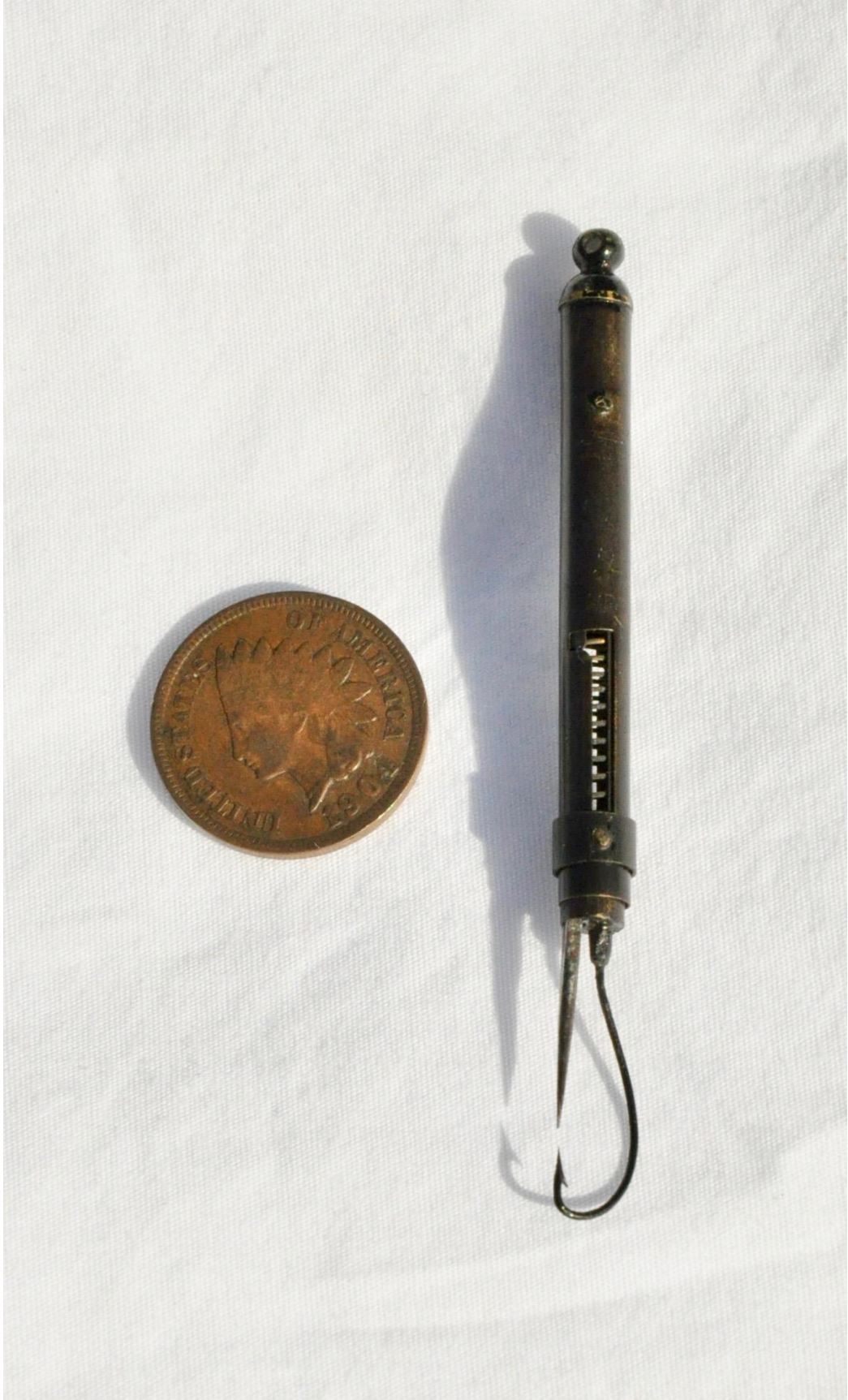
Aside from this one example, there are only 2 others rumored to exist, but I have been unable to verify their existence.

More like a piece of jewelry than a device made for catching fish, this diminutive killer fish trap is a true work of art (from the collection of William Bauser).

Shown below in the sprung position with penny for scale.



Other side shown below in the sprung position.



Shown below in the set position, measuring 2.5 inches in length.



Close-up below showing the stamping, which is obscured by the factory black-japanning (with special thanks to my daughter Sarah Blausen for discovering this stamping).



Shown below with a cigarette for scale....which is meant to illustrate how small this spring-hook is. As can be seen, this spear shooting



spring-hook would easily fit inside, with room to spare.



Drawing of the stamping on the Needle-Hook.....an H-A....a Hamecon-Aiguille.

