Finch & Co



EXTREMELY RARE SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WALKING CANE OF ARCHITECTURAL FORM CARVED IN RELIEF OF SPERM WHALE TOOTH AND PAN BONE THE SQUARED CAGE WORK SECTIONS WITH FLUTED PILLARS

A VERY FINE AND RARE SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WALKING CANE OF ARCHITECTURAL FORM CARVED IN RELIEF OF SPERM WHALE TOOTH AND PAN BONE THE SQUARED CAGE WORK SECTIONS WITH FLUTED PILLARS THE HANDLE FORMED AS A TURKS HEAD KNOT THE SHAFT INLAID WITH TORTOISESHELL AND SILVER

ENGLISH OR AMERICAN

MID 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 86.5CM LONG - 34 INS LONG

NOTES REGARDING SHIPPING: THIS CANE CAN BE LEGALLY IMPORTED TO THE USA TOGETHER WITH THE APPROPRIATE CITES EXPORT CERTIFICATE

PLEASE CONTACT FOR DETAILS AND SHIPPING QUOTES

LITERATURE

IN 1843 JOSEPH BOGART HERSEY, THIRD MATE AND SHIP-KEEPER OF THE SCHOONER 'ESQUIMAUX' OF PROVINCETOWN WROTE IN HIS JOURNALÂ€¦. '3RD JULY. WE THEN BEGAN TO SAW UP AND DIVIDE THE BONE, SCARCELY ANY OF WHICH, BUT WAS HELD IN SUCH HIGH ESTIMATION AS TO PREVENT IT FROM BEING WASTED. THE JAW AND THE PANS WERE DISSECTED TO SUCH AN ADVANTAGE THAT NEARLY ALL HAD A PIECE WHICH WOULD ANSWER TO MAKE A BUSK, OR CANE, AND SOME FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO GET BOTH.'

IN THE 19TH CENTURY A CANE WAS A MATTER OF FASHION RATHER THAN A UTILITARIAN AID TO MOBILITY AND WALKING CANES OF MANY TYPES WERE PRODUCED ON WHALE-SHIPS TO PLEASE, AND SOMETIMES SELL, TO THOSE PEOPLE AT HOME. HOWEVER, THIS SUPERB EXAMPLE INTRICATELY CARVED WITH FINE CAGE WORKED FLUTED PILLARS, AND PROFUSELY INLAID WITH TORTOISESHELL AND SILVER, IS A 'TOUR DE FORCE' OF THE SCRIMSHANDERS ART. THE WHALE IVORY HANDLE CARVED INTO THE SHAPE OF A TURKS HEAD KNOT IS QUINTESSENTIALLY NAUTICAL, DISPLAYING THE SAILOR'S KNOWLEDGE AND LOVE OF ROPE-WORK.