

Finch & C^o



EXCEPTIONAL LARGE ROWLAND WARD SPECIMEN OF A PACIFIC ARCTIC WALRUS SKULL COMPLETE WITH TUSKS

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'ODOBENUS ROSMARUS'

MOUNTED ON AN OAK SHIELD WITH THE ROWLAND WARD 'GALLERY LABEL' TO THE REVERSE, USED 1891 - 1926 (MOSTLY

USED 1900 - 1914)

OLD INVENTORY NUMBER TO REVERSE: '5253'

CIRCA 1900

SIZE: WALRUS: 70CM LONG - 27 INS LONG

SHIELD AND WALRUS: 81CM HIGH, 32CM WIDE - 32 INS HIGH, 12½ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE LARGEST, HEAVIEST PINNIPED THE PACIFIC MALE WALRUS IS A HUGE ANIMAL. RECORD SPECIMENS CAN MEASURE MORE THAN 13 FEET LONG AND WEIGH UP TO 3500LBS. RANGING THE POLAR SEAS AT THE TOP OF THE WORLD THEY ARE THE CONSTANT INHABITANTS OF THE ICE FLOES, FOLLOWING THEM SOUTH IN THE WINTER AND NORTH IN THE SUMMER.

AN AGILE AND EXPERT SWIMMER IN SPITE OF ITS GREAT BULK IT OFTEN CRUISES LEISURELY WITH SLOW ALTERNATE STROKES OF ITS HIND FLIPPERS. THE WALRUS USES ITS TUSKS TO HOIST ITSELF UPON THE ICE, IN DEFENCE, TO PROD ITS NEIGHBOURS AND TO GATHER CLAMS AND OTHER SHELLFISH. THE WALRUS, WHEN HUNGRY, WILL DIVE TO THE SEA BOTTOM, STAND ON ITS HEAD AND MOVE SLOWLY BACKWARD USING ITS TUSKS AND STIFF CHEEK BRISTLES TO LOOSEN SHELLFISH FROM THE SAND. THE LITERAL MEANING OF THEIR SCIENTIFIC NAME 'ODOBENIDAE' IS 'THOSE THAT WALK WITH THEIR TEETH'.