

Finch & C^o



AN ANCIENT OKVIK OLD BERING SEA CULTURE ESKIMO CARVED WALRUS IVORY ANTHROPOMORPHIC TOGGLE OR HANDLE

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ANTHROPOMORPHIC TOGGLE OR HANDLE

REPRESENTING A SEAL'S BODY WITH A HUMAN HEAD.

BEAUTIFUL BROWN SMOOTH SILKY PATINA

200 B.C – 100 AD

SIZE : 9.5 CMLONG, 2.5 CMDIA – 3¾ INS LONG, 1 INS DIA

LITERATURE

CF FINCH AND CO CATALOGUE NO. 5 (ITEMNO. 60) FOR ANOTHER OKVIK PERIOD SCULPTURE.

THE FACT THAT ANIMALS HAD SOULS, IN THEIR BELIEF, WAS PROFOUNDLY TROUBLING TO RESPONSIBLE ESKIMO HUNTERS. AN IGLULIK ESKIMO MAN TOLD THE DANISH EXPLORER KNUD RASMUSSEN "THE GREATEST PERIL OF LIFE LIES IN THE FACT THAT HUMAN FOOD CONSISTS ENTIRELY OF SOULS. ALL CREATURES THAT WE HAVE TO KILL AND EAT, ALL THOSE THAT WE HAVE TO STRIKE DOWN AND DESTROY TO MAKE CLOTHES FOR OURSELVES, HAVE SOULS, LIKE WE HAVE, SOULS THAT DO NOT PERISH WITH THE BODY, AND WHICH THEREFORE MUST BE PROPITIATED LEST THEY SHOULD REVENGE THEMSELVES ON US FOR TAKING AWAY THEIR BODIES'.

" KNUD RASMUSSEN 'INTELLECTUAL CULTURE OF IGULIK ESKIMOS' THE 5TH THULE EXPEDITION 1921-24 .