Finch & Co



A FINE PAIR OF SCRIMSHAW WALRUS TUSKS

A FINE PAIR OF SCRIMSHAW WALRUS TUSKS
ONE TUSK STIPPLE ENGRAVED WITH A TURKISH MERCHANT, THE OTHER WITH A LADY OF FASHION. THE REVERSE ENGRAVED WITH NUMEROUS MASONIC SYMBOLS AND THE LEGEND 'ROYAL ARCH MASONRY'
MID 19TH CENTURY
SIZE : 42 CM LONG – 16½ INS LONG AND 44.5 CM LONG – 17½ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE WALRUS WAS FREQUENTLY ENCOUNTERED AND HUNTED ON HIGH LATITUDE ARTIC VOYAGES AND THE TUSKS HAVE BEEN USED BY THE EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN WHALERS FOR 400 YEARS AS A MEDIUM FOR TOOLS AND DECORATIVE OBJECTS. IN 1868 AMBROSE H BATES WROTE IN HIS 'JOURNAL OF A WHALING VOYAGE IN BRIG ISABELLA OF NEW LONDON' Â€¦. 'WHILE I AM AT THIS TABLE THERE IS ANOTHER MAN AT THE OPPOSITE END OF SAID TABLE MAKING PICTURES ON WALRUS TUSKS. NOW THIS MAN SEEMS COMPLETELY SATISFIED THAT THE WORLD IS JUST RIGHT AND WAS GOT UP TO HIS OWN IDEA' Â€¦.