Finch & Co

ESKIMO HUNTING CLUB MADE FROM THE PENIS BONE OF AN ARCTIC WALRUS

AN ESKIMO HUNTING CLUB MADE FROM THE PENIS BONE OF AN ARCTIC WALRUS
18TH CENTURY
SIZE: 58.5CM LONG – 23 INS LONG

LITERATURE

TO MANY ESKIMOS THE WALRUS HAS LONG BEEN THE MAINSTAY OF LIFE JUST AS THE BUFFALO WAS TO THE PLAINS INDIANS. EVERY PART OF THE ANIMAL IS EITHER EATEN AS FOOD OR USED FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE.
BEFORE THEY OBTAINED GUNS, ESKIMO HUNTERS WERE ARMED ONLY WITH SPEARS, HARPOONS AND CLUBS. WHEN A WALRUS HERD HAULED OUT ON THE ICE OR ASHORE THE HUNTERS HAD TO APPROACH UNDETECTED IN ORDER TO KILL THEIR QUARRY BEFORE IT COULD ESCAPE. THEY WOULD MOVE TOWARDS THE WALRUS GATHERED ON ICE FLOES IN KAYAKS UNTIL THEY WERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO SPEAR OR HARPOON THEIR VICTIMS. A FLOAT WAS ATTACHED TO EACH WEAPON BY A LONG LINE AND THE STRICKEN WALRUS WAS FORCED TO TOW IT ABOUT UNTIL EXHAUSTED. THE ESKIMO HUNTER COULD THEN DISPATCH THE WALRUS WITH HIS CLUB.