Finch & Co



PAIR OF AMERICAN MONOGRAMMED SCRIMSHAW SPERM WHALE TEETH

A RARE PAIR OF AMERICAN MONOGRAMMED SCRIMSHAW SPERM WHALE TEETH
DEPICTING 'THE SHIPWRECK'D TAR' AND HIS SWEETHEART ENTITLED 'MEDITATION'
BOTH MONOGRAMMED 'J.C.T. SCULP' FOR JAMES CHAPMAN TINKER (1827 – 1868) OF GROTON CONNECTICUT
3RD QUARTER OF 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 13CM HIGH – 5 INS HIGH AND 13.5CM HIGH – 5¼ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

JAMES CHAPMAN TINKER IS REPORTED BY STUART M. FRANK IN HIS 'DICTIONARY OF SCRIMSHAW ARTISTS' TO HAVE MADE A BALEEN DITTY BOX ENGRAVED WITH A SHIP PORTRAIT AND OTHER EMBLEMS THAT IS NOW IN THE NEW BEDFORD WHALING MUSEUM. FAMILY TRADITION STATES THAT THIS BOX WAS MADE ON BOARD THE WHALING SHIP 'JOHN P. WEST' OF NEW BEDFORD, WHICH WAS COMMANDED BY THEIR RELATION DANIEL TINKER FROM 1858-63, AND FROM 1863-67. JAMES CHAPMAN TINKER DIED IN 1868 SO IT IS LIKELY THAT HE MADE THIS PAIR OF ENGRAVED TEETH DURING ONE OF THESE VOYAGES.