

# Finch & C<sup>o</sup>



## **AMERICAN SCRIMSHAW SPERM WHALE TOOTH**

AN UNUSUAL AND INTERESTING AMERICAN SCRIMSHAW SPERM WHALE TOOTH  
DEPICTING AN AMERICAN CIVIL WAR UNION OFFICER OF AN INFANTRY REGIMENT DRESSED IN THE UNION FATIGUE  
UNIFORM OF 1858  
CIRCA 1860-70  
SIZE: 15CM HIGH – 6 INS HIGH

## **LITERATURE**

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR UNION UNIFORM WAS INFLUENCED BY THAT OF THE FRENCH ARMY. DURING THE U.S. WAR OF INDEPENDENCE THE FRENCH HAD AIDED THE AMERICAN FORCES AND MANY OF THE OFFICERS OF THE UNION ARMY AT THE START OF THE CIVIL WAR WERE VETERANS OF THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE AND SO, IN ORDER TO AVOID BRITISH INFLUENCE IT WAS DECIDED TO BASE THE UNION UNIFORM ON THAT OF THE FRENCH ARMY. OFFICERS TENDED TO PRIVATELY PURCHASE MORE ELABORATE HATS OFTEN WITH PLUMES AFTER THE FRENCH MODEL AND THESE SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME KNOWN AS 'CHASSEUR' CAPS.