

Finch & C^o



SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WHALE BONE STAY BUSK

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ETCHED IN BLACK WITH A WHALING SHIP, ITS SAILS FURLED AND THREE WHALE BOATS EACH WITH SIX MEN SOME HOLDING HARPOONS PURSUING THREE SPERM WHALES AMIDST THE WAVES

MD 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 29CM WIDE, 4.5CM HIGH – 11½ INS WIDE, 1¾ INS HIGH

SEE FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 11, ITEM NO. 2, FOR ANOTHER STAY BUSK

LITERATURE

FROM THE LATE 17TH CENTURY TO THE LATE 19TH CENTURY STAY BUSKS WERE USED AS STIFFENERS FOR INSERTING IN A WOMAN'S CORSET OR CORSAGE AND IT CONTINUED TO BE THE CUSTOM TO CARVE AND PRESENT STAY BUSKS AS LOVE TOKENS AS LONG AS THE VAGARIES OF FASHION DECREED A WASP WAIST ACCENTUATED BY A LONG POINTED BODICE. STAY BUSKS WERE POPULAR WITH SAILORS AS A SCRIMSHAW ITEM BECAUSE, AS THEY WERE SHAPED FROM THE PAN BONE OF A WHALE, THEY PROVIDED A FLAT EVEN SURFACE THAT COULD BE EASILY ENGRAVED.