Finch & Co



SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WHALE BONE STAY BUSK

A SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WHALE BONE STAY BUSK
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
MID 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.