

Finch & C^o



SUPERB AND RARE SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WALKING CANE

A SUPERB AND RARE SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WALKING CANE
THE STAFF FASHIONED FROM AN OLD TWISTED NARWHAL TUSK, THE HANDLE OF CARVED WALRUS IVORY
PROBABLY ANGLO/AMERICAN
SUPERB SMOOTH MELLOW PATINA
CIRCA 1850
SIZE: 82CM LONG – 32¼ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE NARWHAL LIVES IN THE ICY WATERS OF THE ARCTIC AND IS A CLOSE RELATIVE OF THE BELUGA OR WHITE WHALE. APART FROM ITS DISTINCTIVE TUSKS IT HAD NO COMMERCIAL VALUE TO THE WHALERS OF THE 19TH CENTURY WHO DID NOT HUNT IT, BUT USUALLY ACQUIRED THE TUSKS FROM THE ARCTIC ESKIMO. THE LONG SPIRAL TUSK IS A TOOTH THAT JUTS FORWARD 8 OR 9 FEET FROM THE LEFT SIDE OF THE MALE'S UPPER JAW AND WAS FOR A LONG TIME BELIEVED TO BE THE MYTHICAL UNICORN'S HORN POSSESSING MAGICAL CURATIVE PROPERTIES. NARWHAL TUSKS ARE VERY HARD AND QUITE DIFFICULT TO CARVE AND CONSEQUENTLY THEY ARE RARE IN SCRIMSHAW.