

Finch & C^o



AMERICAN SAILORS SCRIMSHAW PATRIOTIC STAYBUSK

AN INTERESTING AMERICAN SAILORS SCRIMSHAW PATRIOTIC STAYBUSK
ENGRAVED WITH SCENES OF A PADDLE STEAMER FLYING A RED COLOURED REPUBLICAN FLAG AND WITH
TWO IMPOSING URBAN AMERICAN BUILDINGS
PROBABLY BASED ON ILLUSTRATIONS FROM JOHN WARNER BARBER'S BOOK 'THE CONNECTICUT
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS' PUBLISHED IN NEW HAVEN IN 1838
CIRCA 1845 – 50
SIZE: 40CM WIDE, 4CM HIGH – 15¾ INS WIDE, 1½ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 15, ITEM NO. 39, FOR ANOTHER SCRIMSHAW STAYBUSK
INTENDED AS A STAY IN FRONT OF A WOMAN'S BODICE OR CORSET THESE BUSKS ARE MADE OF PAN
BONE, THE LOWER JAW OF A SPERM WHALE, WHOSE FLAT SURFACE WAS FAIRLY EASY TO INSCRIBE WHEN
'GREEN' EVEN WITH A SAILORS JACK KNIFE. POPULAR AS LOVE TOKENS THEY WERE USUALLY 10 TO 12
INCHES LONG AND WERE INSERTED IN A VERTICAL POCKET IN THE FRONT OF THE CORSET TO KEEP THE
GARMENT FROM BUNCHING WHEN TIGHTLY LACED.