

Finch & C^o



AMERICAN SAILORS SCRIMSHAW PAIR OF CARVED WHALEBONE AND BALEEN SUGAR TONGS

AN AMERICAN SAILORS SCRIMSHAW PAIR OF CARVED WHALEBONE AND BALEEN SUGAR TONGS
THE FRETWORK ARMS COLOURED IN BLUE, RED AND GREEN, AN INTERESTING DATED INSCRIPTION ETCHED INTO THE
BOWLS READING: 'THIS GIFT FROM DAINE PERRY OF OFFENHAMBOAT HOUSE IS PRESENTED AS A MEMORIAL OF AN
EXCURSION TO THAT PLACE JULY 4TH 1811 BY THE FOLLOWING PARTY MRS MARY ACTON MRS KINSEY MISS ELIZA
HONIATT MISS MA HONIATT MR JOSH THOMAS & MR MANN'

CIRCA 1810

SIZE: APPROX: 11CM HIGH – 4¼ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

BALEEN WAS A SPECIAL PRODUCT OF THE RIGHT WHALE AND WAS USED FOR MAKING STAY BUSKS, BOXES, FOR INLAY
AND AS FLEXIBLE STRIPS FOR JOINING CARVED WHALEBONE OBJECTS SUCH AS THESE SUGAR TONGS. BEFORE
GRANULATED SUGAR OR SUGAR CUBES WERE COMMONPLACE, SUGAR WAS PURCHASED IN THE FORM OF A LOAF AND
THEN CUT INTO LUMPS THAT WOULD BE GRASPED BY A PAIR OF TONGS. THE FLEXIBILITY OF THE BALEEN ALLOWED THE
TONGS TO BEND AS THE ARMS CLASPED THE SUGAR.