

Finch & C^o



FINE SAILORS SNAKE-WOOD WALKING CANE

A FINE SAILORS SNAKE-WOOD WALKING CANE

WITH A LARGE CARVED SPERMWHALE TOOTH IVORY HANDLE FORMED AS A CLENCHED FIST HOLDING A ROLL OF
COMMAND

AN OLD INSCRIPTION IN INK ON THE BACK OF THE HAND READING: 'AMIGNON MRS WOOLFIELD'

OLD SMOOTH PATINA

CIRCA 1840

SIZE: 87CMLONG – 3¼ INS LONG

LITERATURE

DR JOHNSON COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY A MAN SHOULD WILLINGLY GO TO SEA, AND INDEED THE LIFE OF A SAILOR SPENT CROWDED WITH HIS MATES BELOW DECKS ONLY TO BE CALLED ALOFT TO THE MASTS AND YARDS IN A HOWLING GALE AT ANY MOMENT WOULD NOT HAVE APPEALED TO MOST 18TH CENTURY LITERARY MEN. A SEAMAN'S LIFE REMAINED BARELY DURABLE UNTIL WELL INTO THE 19TH CENTURY, BUT SCRIMSHANDING WAS ENCOURAGED AS A DIVERSION ABOARD THE LONG VOYAGES OF THE WHALING SHIPS AND IT UNDOUBTEDLY HELPED EASE THE BOREDOM AND FRUSTRATION OF THE CREW.