Finch & Co



SAILORS SCRIMSHAW CARVED MARINE IVORY AND WHALEBONE WALKING CANE

A FINE SAILORS SCRIMSHAW CARVED MARINE IVORY AND WHALEBONE WALKING CANE
THE SHAFT CARVED WITH CROSS-HATCHING AND SPIRALS TO RESEMBLE THE TUSK OF A NARWHAL. THE SPERM WHALE TOOTH HANDLE CARVED AS A TURKS-HEAD KNOT
MID 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 86.5CM LONG – 34 INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE TURKS-HEAD KNOT AS WELL AS BEING DECORATIVE WAS ALSO VERY PRACTICAL WHERE A LARGE KNOT WAS REQUIRED ON BOARD SHIP. WHEN WORKED WITH A LONG-LINE THE KNOT WILL FORM A TURBAN AND SO BECAME KNOWN AS THE 'TURKSHEAD'. THE ENDLESS KNOT, WITH NO SEAMS OR VISIBLE BEGINNING OR END WAS TO THE SAILOR AN ALLEGORY OF LOVE AND SO BECAME A SYMBOL OF INTERDEPENDENCE AND OF MARRIAGE OR UNION.