

Finch & C^o



SAILOR'S SCRIMSHAW CARVED WHALEBONE CAPTAIN'S STAFF

A SAILOR'S SCRIMSHAW CARVED WHALEBONE CAPTAIN'S STAFF

OLD SMOOTH PATINA

MD 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 85CMLONG – 33½ INS LONG

LITERATURE

SIMPLE AND WELL BALANCED, THIS UTILITARIAN SOLID WHALEBONE STAFF MAY HAVE BEEN USED ON BOARD SHIP, AND BESIDES ANY MARITIME FUNCTION IT HAD, WOULD HAVE MADE A HANDY WEAPON IN A FIGHT. BONE FROM THE SPERM-WHALE WAS THE ONLY WHALEBONE USED TO MAKE OBJECTS AS THE OTHER TYPES WERE FAR TOO OILY AND POROUS. THE WHALERS APPRECIATED THE 'FEEL' OF THE MATERIAL AND THE CLEAN, HONEST LINES OF THE WELL PROPORTIONED DEVICE MADE BY THE SCRIMSHANDERS HAS TURNED THESE OBJECTS INTO A FORM OF MARINE FOLK ART.