Finch & Co



FINELY ENGRAVED SAILORS SCRIMSHAW SPERM-WHALE TOOTH

A FINELY ENGRAVED SAILORS SCRIMSHAW SPERM-WHALE TOOTH WITH AN UNUSUAL IMAGE TO ONE SIDE OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS

LATE 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 21CM LONG – 8¼ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THIS IMAGE WAS PROBABLY INSPIRED BY AN AMERICAN TATTOO SAMPLE BOOK OF THE LATE 19TH CENTURY WHERE DESIGNS OF POPULAR THEMES OF THE DAY WERE MARKED WITH THE PRICE FOR CUSTOMERS RANGING FROM $4.00 FOR GEORGE WASHINGTON TO 15 CENTS FOR A FOULED ANCHOR TO 10 CENTS FOR A CROSS. IT IS ALSO PROBABLE THAT THIS TOOTH WAS ENGRAVED TO SERVE AS AN OBJECT OF RELIGIOUS DEVOTION ON BOARD SHIP.