

Finch & C^o



SAILORS SCRIMSHAW MARINE IVORY WALKING CANE

A SAILORS SCRIMSHAW MARINE IVORY WALKING CANE THE WALRUS CARVED FINIAL FORMED AS A CLENCHED FIST SET UPON AN ORIGINAL DARK MALACCA SHAFT, WITH LATER PRESENTATION SILVER COLLAR, INSCRIBED: G. B. DUNBAR 1901

CIRCA 1840 – 70

SIZE: 92CM LONG – 36¼ INS LONG

FIST: 12CM LONG, 5 CM WIDE – 4¾ INS LONG, 2 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

ALTHOUGH A POPULAR ITEM FOR THE SCRIMSHANDERS TO CRAFT THESE WALKING CANES WERE NEVER MADE TO BE USED ON BOARD SHIP. BOTH USEFUL AND ORNAMENTAL ON DRY LAND THEY WERE MOSTLY MADE TO TRADE WITH ON THE QUAYSIDE WHEN THE WHALERS RETURNED TO PORT. KNOWN AS THE 'FRIENDSHIP HAND' THE FIST WAS SYMBOLIC OF HOSPITALITY AND GOODWILL.