Finch & Co



SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WHALEBONE AND SPERM WHALE TOOTH WALKING CANE

AN EXCEPTIONAL SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WHALEBONE AND SPERM WHALE TOOTH WALKING CANE THE HANDLE CARVED AS A TURKS-HEAD KNOT THE OCTAGONAL SHAFT DECORATED WITH DIAMOND AND ROUNDEL MOTIFS OF TORTOISESHELL INLAY

FIRST HALF 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 89CM LONG - 35 INS LONG

LITERATURE

CHARLES MURPHY, THIRD MATE ON A WHALING SHIP WROTE A POEM ABOUT A WHALING VOYAGE OF THE YEARS 1820 TO 1823. ENTITLED 'A JOURNAL OF A WHALING VOYAGE ON BOARD SHIP DAUPHIN OF NANTUCKET' HE EXPRESSED IN TWO SHORT STANZAS THE ANTICIPATION EVERY CREW MEMBER FELT REGARDING THEIR LONG VOYAGE HOMEÂ€¦..

Â€"'AND HAVING FITTED WELL OUR SHIP
TO PASS CAPE HORN AGAIN,
EACH MAN THEN FORE AND AFT THE SHIP,
SCRIMSHAWING DID BEGIN.
THEN KNITTING-SHEATHS AND JAGGING-KNIVES
WERE CUT IN EVERY FORM,
AND OTHER TRINKETS FOR THE GIRLS,
AS PRESENTS FROM CAPE HORN.'