Finch & Co



A COLLECTION OF FOUR BERING SEA ESKIMO INUIT HUNTING AMULETS CARVED OF WALRUS IVORY

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A.

A DRAG HANDLE IN THE FORM OF A POLAR BEAR'S HEAD WITH TWO DRILLED EYES AND SMALL CARVED EARS

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 5CM LONG - 2 INS LONG

B.

AN ANCIENT PENDANT HUNTING AMULET IN THE FORM OF A SMILING SWIMMING SEAL A SMALL ATTACHMENT HOLE TO ITS TAIL

CIRCA 800 - 1200 AD

SIZE: 4.5CM LONG - 1¾ INS LONG

C.

AN ANCIENT ARCTIC HUNTER'S HARPOON FINGER REST IN THE FORM OF A POLAR BEAR'S HEAD

CIRCA 800 - 1200 AD

SIZE: 4.5CM LONG - 1¾ INS LONG

D.

A HUNTER'S BLOCK ATTACHER USED TO SECURE THE HARPOON LINE TO THE FLOAT OR TO THE TOGGLE HANDLE FOR ICE HUNTING IN THE FORM OF A DIVING BOWHEAD WHALE

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 2.5CM HIGH, 3CM WIDE - 1 INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE SHAMANS COMMUNICATED WITH THE SPIRITS SUPPLICATING THEM FOR SUCCESS IN HUNTING TO HELP THE INUIT COMMUNITY SURVIVE IN THE HARSH NORTHERN SNOW AND ICE BOUND LANDSCAPE. CLOTHING, REGALIA AND AMULETS

SUCH AS THESE EXAMPLES EMBODIED THE SHAMANS POWER AND SPIRITUAL MYSTERY. MASKS, DRUMS, HEADDRESSES, HARPOONS AND AMULETS WERE THE TOOLS, WEAPONS AND ARMOUR OF THE SHAMAN ESTABLISHING HIS AUTHORITY WITH THE PEOPLE, AND ALLOWING HIM TO VENTURE SAFELY INTO THE SPIRIT WORLD.