Finch & Co



SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WHALEBONE AND SPERM WHALE TOOTH WALKING CANE

A FINE SAILORS SCRIMSHAW WHALEBONE AND SPERM WHALE TOOTH WALKING CANE THE KNOP CARVED IN THE FORM OF A TURKS-HEAD KNOT THE EYE FOR THE WRIST THONG INLAID WITH BALEEN

MID 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 82CM LONG - 32¼ INS LONG

LITERATURE

IT WAS ON THE HANDLE OF A WALKING CANE THAT THE SCRIMSHANDER USUALLY LAVISHED HIS GREATEST ATTENTION AND TO THE SAILOR THE SYMBOL OF THE TURKS-HEAD KNOT WAS A FAVOURITE DEVICE. THIS PARTICULAR KNOT WHEN WORKED WITH A LOGLINE WILL FORM A TURBAN, AND SO WAS CALLED A 'TURKS-HEAD'. THEY LIKENED THE ENDLESS KNOT WITH NO SEAMS OR VISIBLE BEGINNING OR END, TO LOVE AND SO IT BECAME SYMBOLIC OF INTERDEPENDENCE AND OF A UNION. THE SPIRAL PATTERNED SHAFT IS TURNED TO RESEMBLE THE TUSK OF A NARWHAL, AND IS MADE FROM THE WHITE BONE FROM THE BROAD PAN OF THE JAW OF A YOUNGER SPERM WHALE.