Finch & Co



A FINE AND RARE CARVED AND INLAID WHALEBONE AND SPERM WHALE IVORY SAILORS WALKING STICK / CANE

A FINE AND RARE CARVED AND INLAID WHALEBONE AND SPERM WHALE IVORY SAILORS WALKING STICK

SPERM WHALE IVORY, WHALEBONE, TORTOISESHELL AND BALEEN

FIRST HALF OF 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 95 CM LONG – 37½ INS LONG

LITERATURE

MEN ABOARD WHALING SHIPS WERE OFTEN AT SEA ON VOYAGES FOR AS LONG AS THREE TO FIVE YEARS. ALL OF THEM WHEN NOT ON WATCH OR ACTUALLY WHALING WOULD HAVE TIME ON THEIR HANDS. USING THE DISCARDED SPERM WHALE TEETH, WHALEBONE AND PANBONE THEY MADE A VARIETY OF OBJECTS FOR GIFTS AND FOR TRADE. PANBONE TURNED ON A MARINERS SIMPLE LATHE WOULD PRODUCE A LONG TAPERING ROD OF WHALEBONE WHICH WHEN MOUNTED WITH A DECORATIVE HANDLE CARVED FROM A SPERM WHALE TOOTH FORMED A FUNCTIONAL WALKING STICK AND A DECORATIVE MARINE WORK OF ART.