Finch & Co



JAPANESE CARVED IVORY SASHI NETSUKE

A FINE JAPANESE CARVED IVORY SASHI NETSUKE OF THIN ELONGATED FORM DEPICTING ASHINAGA AND TENAGA GRAPPLING WITH AN OCTOPUS
SIGNED IKKOSAI (TOUN)
OLD SILKY CREAMY SMOOTH PATINA
MID 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 12CM HIGH - 4¾ HIGH

LITERATURE

THESE LEGENDARY 'YOKAI' WERE SAID TO HAVE FABULOUSLY LONG LIMBS EXTENDING TO SEVEN OR NINE YARDS. ALONE NEITHER OF THEM COULD CATCH ENOUGH FISH TO SURVIVE, BUT TOGETHER WITH ASHINAGA'S LONG LEGS THEY COULD WADE FAR INTO THE SEA AND TENAGA, SITTING ON HIS FRIENDS BACK, COULD WITH HIS VERY LONG ARMS, REACH DOWN AND CATCH OCTOPI AND OTHER TASTY DELICACIES. THEY WERE ALSO KNOWN FOR THEIR ABUNDANT CURLY HAIR LIKE THE AINU, AN ABORIGINAL RACE DISTINCT FROM THE JAPANESE WHO STILL INHABIT YEZO IN THE FAR NORTH OF JAPAN.