Finch & Co



BERING SEA ESKIMO INUIT DOUBLE HEADED WALRUS IVORY AMULETIC DRAG HANDLE

AN UNUSUAL BERING SEA ESKIMO INUIT DOUBLE HEADED WALRUS IVORY AMULETIC DRAG HANDLE PORTRAYING A WHISKERED SEAL AND A TUSKED WALRUS

THE EYES INLAID WITH BALEEN

FIRST HALF 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 2.5CM HIGH, 2CM WIDE, 2.5CM DEEP - 1 INS HIGH, ¾ INS WIDE, 1 INS DEEP / 9.5CM HIGH - 3¾ INS HIGH (WITH BASE)

LITERATURE

THE LARGER SEA MAMMALS POSE A DIRECT PHYSICAL THREAT TO THE INUIT HUNTER IN THE ARCTIC. WALRUS CAN BE QUITE DANGEROUS AS A BIG BULL CAN WEIGH MORE THAN AN ENTIRE CREW OF EIGHT MEN PLUS THEIR UMIAKE BOAT AND EQUIPMENT. AN ANNOYED WALRUS DOES NOT SHRINK FROM ATTACKING A LARGE BOAT, NOT TO MENTION A LONE MAN STANDING BESIDE A CRACK IN THE ICE. AS WALRUS FREQUENTLY CONGREGATE AND OFTEN TRAVEL IN PODS OF DOZENS OR EVEN HUNDREDS, WALRUS HUNTING HAD TO BE CONDUCTED WITH CONSIDERABLE CAUTION. SERVING AS A MAGICAL AID FOR BOTH PROTECTION AND HUNTING SUCCESS, THESE TALISMANIC CARVINGS HELPED THE HUNTER IN HIS ARDUOUS TASK.