

Finch & C^o



A BERING STRAIT INUIT ESKIMO CARVED WALRUS IVORY MINIATURE AMULETIC FEMALE MASK, A GREENLANDIC AMMASSALIK ESKIMO CARVED WHALEBONE MINIATURE SHAMAN'S MASK HEAD, A BERING STRAIT YUPIK ESKIMO CARVED WALRUS IVORY MINIATURE BELT FASTENER

A. A BERING STRAIT INUIT ESKIMO CARVED WALRUS IVORY MINIATURE AMULETIC FEMALE MASK HEAD THE CHIN WITH BALEEN INLAID STUD PERHAPS REPRESENTING A LABRET

USED AS A CLOTHING ATTACHMENT

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 2.5CM HIGH, 1.5CM WIDE - 1 INS HIGH, ½ INS WIDE

NOW SOLD

B. A GREENLANDIC AMMASSALIK ESKIMO CARVED WHALEBONE MINIATURE SHAMAN'S MASK HEAD WITH OPEN SINGING MOUTH AND SCARIFIED TATTOOS USED AS AN AMULETIC CLOTHING ATTACHMENT

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 2.5CM HIGH, 1.5CM WIDE - 1 INS HIGH, ½ INS WIDE

NOW SOLD

C. A BERING STRAIT YUPIK ESKIMO CARVED WALRUS IVORY MINIATURE BELT FASTENER DEPICTING A POLAR BEAR THE EYES AND EARS INLAID WITH BALEEN

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 1.2CMHIGH, 0.5CMWIDE, 2.5CMDEEP - ½ INS HIGH, ¼ INS WIDE, 1 INS DEEP

AVAILABLE

A. A BERING STRAIT INUIT ESKIMO CARVED WALRUS IVORY MINIATURE AMULETIC FEMALE MASK HEAD THE CHIN WITH BALEEN INLAID STUD PERHAPS REPRESENTING A LABRET

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AVAILABLE

LITERATURE

MINIATURE CLOTHING ATTACHMENTS WERE OFTEN MADE IN THE FORM OF MASKS AS THE ESKIMO HUNTER USED IMAGES OF HUMAN FACES IN THE PERFORMANCE OF VARIOUS RITUALS. THEY SERVED AS GUARDIAN SPIRITS, BOTH MALE AND FEMALE, WHICH OCCURRED IN ESKIMO COSMOLOGY. AS POWERFUL PROTECTIVE DEVICES THEY WERE SEWN ONTO CLOTHING WITH SINEW THREAD THROUGH THE HOLES MADE IN THEM.

TINY BELT FASTENERS AND ORNAMENTS CARVED FROM IVORY, BONE AND ANIMAL TEETH WERE MADE IN A VARIETY OF SHAPES INCLUDING SEALS, WHALES, BEARS, OTTERS, BIRDS, CARIBOU AND FISH. THESE PIECES WERE HUNG LOW ON THE BELT'S EDGE AND SERVED AS AMULETS TO BRING THE HUNTER THE DEPICTED ANIMAL'S SKILL AND TO APPEASE ITS SPIRIT. THE COLLECTIVE NAME FOR THESE ACCUMULATED ATTACHMENTS WAS 'AKKOWLONGAUJIT' MEANING 'TO DANGLE' AND SUCH BELTS WERE REGARDED AS VERY SPECIAL AND OFTEN HUNG ON THE GRAVE OF THE DECEASED.