Finch & Co



AN INUIT HARPOON FORE SHAFT

AN INUIT HARPOON FORE SHAFT

BERING SEA

19TH CENTURY

AN INUIT HARPOON FORE SHAFT

WALRUS IVORY

SMOOTH SILKY PATINA

BERING SEA

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 36CM LONG - 14 1/8 INS LONG

LITERATURE

KAJ BIRKET-SMITH SAID THAT THE ESKIMO EXISTED 'AT THE EDGE OF NOT ONLY THE INHABITED, BUT ALSO OF THE HABITABLE WORLD', THE ESKIMO METHUEUN, LONDON, 1959.

THE ESKIMO'S DEXTERITY IN DAY TO DAY LIVING WAS CARRIED OVER INTO HIS CARVING. A SEAL HUNTERS EQUIPAGE WAS AS FINELY CALCULATED AS A DOCTORS SET OF MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS. A SINGLE MISJUDGEMENT COULD BE FATAL; A FALSE STEP ON THIN ICE OR A SEAL'S QUICK REACTION TO A HUNTERS SHADOW INVITED DISASTER.

AN ESKIMO WOULD NOT LIVE LONG IF HE FAILED TO NOTICE SUBTLE CHANGES IN THE WEATHER OR SLIGHTEST ALTERATION IN THE ICE SO HE LEARNED TO CONCENTRATE AND PAY ATTENTION TO MINUTE DETAIL, QUALITIES WHICH WERE ALSO BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE FRAGILE SURFACES OF THE IVORY HE CARVED.

PROVENANCE

EX FINCH AND CO

EX OLIVER HOARE