

Finch & C^o



AN INUIT WALRUS IVORY POLAR BEAR HEAD 'WHISTLE'

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FINE GLOSSY PATINA AND MELLOW COLOUR, WORN FROM USE

WALRUS IVORY

INUIT

LATE 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 2.5CM HIGH, 5.5CM DEEP, 3.4CM WIDE - 1 INS HIGH, $2\frac{1}{8}$ INS DEEP, $1\frac{3}{8}$ INS WIDE

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LITERATURE

PROBABLY MADE BY THE INUIT AT THE TURN OF THE 19TH CENTURY FOR SALE OR TRADE WITH THE SHIPPING FLEET TRAVELING ALONG THE COAST. THE SIZE AND FORM OF THE WHISTLE RESEMBLES THAT WHICH WAS BEING USED BY COMMERCIAL SHIPPING FLEETS WHICH IN TURN HAD CONTINUED THE TRADITION OF A 'BOATSWAIN' WHISTLE OR CALL (BOSUN'S)

A READY SUPPLY OF WALRUS IVORY WAS AVAILABLE TO THE INUIT AND THE CARVING OF SUCH AN OBJECT WAS A

CONTINUATION OF THEIR ALREADY MILLENNIALONG TRADITION OF CARVING WALRUS IVORY.