Finch & Co



A HUGE AND EXCEPTIONAL ESKIMO WALRUS TUSK ICE CLEAVER

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WALRUS TUSK 'ODOBENUS ROSMARUS'

SUPERB GOLDEN COLOUR AND PATINA

ARCTIC / BERING STRAIT

18TH CENTURY OR EARLIER

SIZE: 62CM LONG - 7.5CM WIDE (MAX) - 24½ INS LONG, 3 INS WIDE (MAX)

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LITERATURE

OF IMMENSE SIZE AND WEIGHT THIS ICE CLEAVER / ICE KNIFE / SCRAPER PROBABLY SERVED A NUMBER OF TASKS DURING THE BUILDING OF AN 'IGLOO'. THE EXTRA WEIGHT OF THIS KNIFE COMPARED TO NORMAL 'SNOW KNIVES' SUGGESTS MORE OF A 'CHOPPING' MOTION, RATHER THAN CUTTING, AND A 'SHAPING TOOL' RATHER THAN THE KNIVES USED TO DUST OFF FRESHLY FALLEN SNOW. IT IS POSSIBLE FROM THE COLOUR AND SIZE OF THIS VERY LARGE EXAMPLE, THAT THE 'BLADE' OR CLEAVER WAS FASHIONED FROM A VERY LARGE 'EXCAVATED' WALRUS TUSK, RATHER THAN FRESHLY ACQUIRED TOOTH.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE FRENCH COLLECTION

PARCOUR DES MONDES

EX FINCH AND CO, SEPTEMBER 2015

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION