

Finch & C^o



AN ARCTIC BERING SEA YUPIK ESKIMO WALRUS IVORY ATTACHMENT IN THE FORM OF A SEAL HEAD

A FINE YUPIK ESKIMO ATTACHMENT IN THE FORM OF A SEAL HEAD WITH BALEEN INLAID EYES

FINE COLOUR AND PATINA, THROUGH USE

WALRUS IVORY, BALEEN

BERING STRAIT

LATE 18TH / EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 3CM HIGH, 2CM WIDE, 4CM DEEP - 1¼ INS HIGH, ¾ INS WIDE, 1½ INS DEEP / 3.5CM HIGH - 1¾ INS HIGH (ON BASE)

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LITERATURE

CARVED OF WALRUS IVORY THE ATTACHMENTS, WORN WHILE HUNTING, CAME IN AN ARRAY OF SHAPES INCLUDING SEALS, WHALES, WALRUS, WOLVES, OTTERS, BIRDS, FISH AND CARIBOU. HOLES ARE BORED THROUGH FOR ATTACHMENT AND THEY WERE HUNG CLOSE TOGETHER ON THE LOWER EDGE OF A BELT, SERVING AS BOTH DECORATION AND PROTECTION, THEY WERE OFTEN CARVED BY YOUNG MEN FOR THEIR PROSPECTIVE BRIDES TO BRING THEM GOOD FORTUNE. BELTS WITH NUMEROUS AMULETIC ATTACHMENTS WERE REGARDED AS SPECIAL AND HUNG OVER THE GRAVE OF THE DECEASED.

PROVENANCE

SEE: FOR OTHER FASTENERS AND ATTACHMENTS FINCH AND CO, ITEM NO. 12, CATALOGUE NUMBER 28, SUMMER 2017
AND ITEM NO. 52, CATALOGUE NUMBER 35, WINTER 2020