



Scrimshaw Walrus Tusk

Medium

Sperm whale tooth, ink

Description

Sperm whale tooth, with a rounded, blunt end and a roughly cut and finished root stub, etched with an elaborate scene. Lady Liberty is depicted at right, with her streaming dark hair capped with a kerchief and band ornamented with stars. She wears a loose bodice and full length skirt, beneath which peep small feet in flat slippers. She wears wide cuffs on her wrists, ornamented with single five-pointed stars. A larger five-pointed star hovers just above her head. Immediately behind her is a United States shield, with vertical stripes and starred top panel. In the background is a three-masted sailing vessel in full sail. The sky above Lady Liberty is ornamented with random uneven dashes. The etched lines are highlighted with dark pigment, perhaps soot or ink, with the addition of small areas of red pigmentation in the U.S. shield and some of the sky texturing.

Dimensions

4.72 × 1.26 × 1.61 in. (12 × 3.2 × 4.1 cm)