KENDALL WHALING MUSEUM MONOGRAPH SERIES N° 13

Frederick Myrick of Nantucket
Scrimshaw Catalogue Raisonné

COMPILED BY
Donald E. Ridley, P.E.

EDITED, AND WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH BY
Stuart M. Frank, Ph.D.

AND WITH RESEARCH AND FORENSIC CONTRIBUTIONS BY
Paul Madden, Paul Vardeman, and Janet West
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The Kendall Whaling Museum
SHARON, MASSACHUSETTS, USA
2000
To the Memory of
Robert A. Kotta
1952-2000

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COVER ILLUSTRATION: A “Susan’s Tooth,” monochrome engraved scrimshaw on a sperm whale tooth depicting the ship Susan of Nantucket; by Frederick Myrick, circa 1829. Collection of the Peabody Essex Museum of Salem, accessioned prior to 1831. Catalogue # 29-01-22.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This Catalogue Raisonné of America’s most celebrated scrimshaw artist is the work of many hands and many years. The Kendall Whaling Museum, which houses a stellar collection of scrimshaw, is fortunate to be the hub of a small, companionable, international circle of scrimshaw scholars, curators, collectors, and dealers who have generously shared data and insights, collaborated in developing forensic standards and procedures, and cooperated in statistical and iconographical studies. They have handily exploited their geographical diversity to provide access-by-proxy to widely-separated collections on three continents. And since its inception in 1989 they have faithfully supported and gathered at the only public forum devoted to scrimshaw studies, the Kendall Whaling Museum’s Scrimshaw Collectors’ Weekends, to discuss, disseminate, and publish the results of their individual and collaborative gatherings. This Catalogue is in part a direct result of the Frederick Myrick Symposium, held at the seventh Scrimshaw Collectors’ Weekend, in June 1998. There, two full days of lectures, workshops, and panels explored virtually every facet of Myrick’s biography and output; and, for the first time since 1829, some 25 authentic scrimshaw teeth by Frederick Myrick were exhibited and examined side-by-side.

First and foremost, regarding the identification, tracking, authentication, and provenance of Frederick Myrick’s scrimshaw, we are profoundly indebted to Paul Vardeman of Kansas City, Missouri, and Paul Madden of Sandwich, Massachusetts. Without their running inventories, faithfully kept over many years, and their wide, cosmopolitan acquaintance with scrimshaw collectors and the scrimshaw market, no such Catalogue would have been possible.

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We also gratefully acknowledge our debt to friends and colleagues who collaborated in the examination of Myrick’s scrimshaw: Janet West was often our only conduit to pieces held abroad, whereof her meticulous documentation was indispensable. Judith Lund (Old Dartmouth Historical Society) participated in examinations and discussions at the Kendall Whaling Museum, and developed on her own the “template hypothesis” to account for the remarkable consistency of Myrick’s ship portraiture. Ernest Helides (Chatham, Mass.) contributed unconventional insights into Myrick’s technique. William Peterson (Mystic Seaport), Michael Jehle (Nantucket Historical Association), and Daniel Finamore (Peabody Essex Museum) provided uncommonly generous access to their respective institutional collections, facilitated contacts with private collectors, and furnished many important documents and citations revealing of the context, character, and provenance of Myrick’s scrimshaw.

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Finally, we extend our thanks to the individuals and institutions who generously supported the Myrick Symposium, and thus this Catalogue, by lending pieces for exhibition at the Scrimshaw Collectors’ Weekend in June 1998: the Dietrich American Foundation, Ernest Helides, Paul Madden, Mystic Seaport, Nantucket Historical Association, New Hampshire Historical Society, Old Dartmouth Historical Society, Peabody Essex Museum, John Rinaldi, Shelburne Museum, Breckinridge Willcox, and several private collectors who prefer to remain anonymous. The gathering of so much of Myrick’s work for exhibition was not only a galvanizing aesthetic experience and a seminal event for scrimshaw enthusiasts, but it provided an unprecedented opportunity for the systematic, side-by-side comparison of specimens from across the entire range of the artist’s career. We all may have learned more about scrimshaw during those three days than any group has ever learned about scrimshaw in any three days in the entire 200-year history of the genre. We are proud indeed to have been associated with these persons and institutions in mounting what, thanks to their magnanimity, was a unique and historic occasion.

Stuart M. Frank, Director/Chief Curator
Donald E. Ridley, Assistant Curator
The Kendall Whaling Museum
INTRODUCTION

The Scrimshaw Collectors’ Weekend held at the Kendall Whaling Museum during 26-28 June 1998 was devoted to a Symposium on the life and work of Frederick Myrick, and incorporated an exhibit of twenty-five of the thirty-six scrimshaw teeth then attributed to him. This provided an unparalleled opportunity to examine the artist’s work from what we now believe to be the earliest dated piece (December 18, 1828) through the latest dated piece (September 4, 1829), as well as seven of the eight undated pieces now known. An additional undated piece, known as the second Barclay tooth and hitherto attributed to Myrick, was also exhibited, but on close examination it was determined not to be by Myrick’s hand.

The unprecedented ability to examine the dated pieces in chronological order proved to be very enlightening, as it demonstrated a clear progression in style and technical competence of the engraving, and led to the speculation that all of the undated pieces except the first Barclay tooth were engraved subsequently to the last dated tooth. Based on our comparative study, the first Barclay tooth appears to have been executed around late March or early April 1829. Whether or not the dates have any significance apart from establishing a sequence of engraving remains unanswered.

Since the Frederick Myrick Symposium, three additional Susan’s Teeth have been discovered and authenticated (see Appendix 1 and Appendix 4).

Every effort has been made to render the catalogue descriptions parallel and complete. The content of the Catalogue description is as follows:

Item: On dated pieces, the identification number assigned to each is comprised of the last two digits of the year, followed by the month and the day. Undated pieces are designated by “30,” followed by B for Barclay, F for Frances, or S for Susan, and an arbitrarily assigned sequence number.

Date: The date inscribed on the piece, if any.

Length: The length of the tooth in centimeters (inches).

Signed: The signature, if any, as it appears on the scrimshaw.

Couplet: Version 1 or 2 (see below), or None.

Iconography: Description of the iconography on the piece, Obverse (Obv.), Reverse (Rev.), Leading Edge (LE), and Trailing Edge (TE).

Provenance: Provenance of the piece so far as it is known.

Remarks: Any additional information.

Although all of the pieces have similar themes, there are differences among them. One of these is the couplet, source unknown, that appears on most of the teeth. There are two versions, designated as 1 and 2 in the catalogue:

Version 1: Death to the living Long life to the killers Success to sailors wives & greasy luck to whalers

Version 2: Death to the living Long live the killers Success to sailors wives & greasy luck to whalers

Some of the characteristics are so consistent that they have been designated as benchmarks. These are:

1. The conformity of the hull, masts, yards, sails and rigging.
2. Representation of the sea as wavy lines through 29-01-02, and regular V-shaped lines subsequently.
3. The progression of letter shapes and depth of engraving.
4. A rainbow under the American flag and a single line arch under the Union Jack.
5. Anchors, when present, have an inverted stock through 29-03-27, and an upright stock subsequently. All anchor stocks beginning with 29-08-20 have reinforcing bands.
6. The motto in the riband is in upper case letters, which are shorter than the width of the riband and use the lower edge of the riband to form the lower element of the letters B, E, L, and U.

Appendix 1 incorporates a Susan’s Tooth discovered and authenticated when this Catalogue was already in press.

Appendix 2 comprises two discredited items: (a) a Susan piece listed by Crosby as dated December 10, 1828, which is an erroneous date in confusion with 28-12-18; and (b) a second Barclay tooth, which prior to the Myrick Symposium was attributed to Myrick.

Appendix 3 illustrates a whaleman’s contemporaneous vignettes of the ships Susan and Ann; Appendix 4 is a grand list of Frederick Myrick’s scrimshaw; Appendix 5 is a chronology of the artist; and Appendix 6 is a synopsis of the Myrick Symposium.
FREDERICK MYRICK — HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL

Stuart M. Frank

Frederick Myrick of Nantucket was not the first scrimshaw artist, nor even the first American scrimshaw artist, nor (in the opinion of most) even the best scrimshaw artist. But he is undoubtedly the most famous scrimshaw artist, and was certainly one of the great scrimshaw pioneers. Thanks to a combination of historical accident and genuine historical significance, Myrick’s work will likely always remain a cornerstone of any scrimshaw collection.

So far as is known, Myrick’s entire scrimshaw output consists of some 36 sperm whale teeth engraved during 1826-29 on a single Pacific Ocean whaling voyage in the Nantucket ship Susan, commanded by Captain Frederick Swain. Accordingly, Myrick’s scrimshaw is now collectively known as Susan’s Teeth. Judging from the dates on the pieces that are dated, the entire opus appears to have been completed during the remarkably short span of a few months, from December 1828 (the earliest date on any of the teeth) to October 1829 (when the Susan arrived back in Nantucket).

Of the 36 known teeth, 22 are signed and 28 are dated, each specifying a day, month, and year. The dates remain enigmatic. It is not known for certain whether they refer to the dates of completion or to some other itinerary (however, it has been established forensically with a fair degree of certainty that the dates do reflect the sequence, if not the actual dates, of execution). Myrick is thus reputed to have been the first to sign and date his own scrimshaw. And whether or not it later turns out that some other claimant to primacy is discovered, it is upon this reputation that Myrick’s original fame was largely based.

The reputation is probably justified. Though it was not known at the time Myrick’s work first came to light, he was certainly not the first whaleman-artist to sign his scrimshaw, nor even the first American. The best evidence today indicates that the English whaling captain J.S. King was the first to put his name on his whale tooth engravings, circa 1817-23.1 The first American to do so was Nantucketer Edward Burdett (1805-1833), who began engraving sperm whale teeth around 1824, when Myrick was still in high school.2 Nor was Myrick the first to put a date on his work: the inscription on an anonymous tooth commemorating an episode of the 1815-16 voyage of the ship Adam of London, Captain Simeon Coleman, bears the date 1817.3 In fact, an anonymous Rotterdam whaling captain put the date on a pair of wood-and-baleen oval boxes that he fashioned in 1631.4 But Myrick was the first to inscribe his name and a date — a date that may be taken to be at least an approximate date of execution — providing posterity with the ability to connect the work with a particular man, a particular voyage, and a particular time, thereby affording a unique glimpse into the early origins of the scrimshaw genre.

Each of the teeth comprises two portraits of the same ship on the whaling grounds or homeward bound, surrounded by flags, American patriotic devices, anchor, ribands, and motto (as specified in the Catalogue). The Susan is the subject of 30, one portrays the Barclay of Nantucket, two the Frances of New Bedford, and two the ship Anna of London. Each rendition is unique in standpoint of the exploitation of the surface and deployment of the various reiterative features; yet each is remarkably similar, the differences becoming evident only upon close comparison. All of them, even those that are unsigned and undated, have inscriptions identifying the vessels and scenes portrayed. The engraving is accomplished to a high degree of apparent precision. Taken in sequence, there is evidence of technical and stylistic progress, with increasing confidence in the stroke and with the treatment increasingly painterly.

In the absence of any evidence apart from the teeth themselves, it is a matter of speculation why such a gifted artisan produced so many nearly identical works. It may have been to satisfy demand among the crew, or Myrick’s own generosity of spirit, that each of his shipmates should be provided one as a souvenir of the voyage. Even so, there are now more authenticated Susan’s Teeth than the total number in Myrick’s ship’s company. Given that several of the teeth depict vessels other than the Susan, and that a few have turned up in England with a British provenance, it appears that some, at least, were produced as gifts or barter for persons who were not inmates of the Susan.

Little is known of the artist himself. Born on Nantucket to sea-faring folk on 28 April 1808,5 he attended the local Franklin School and, in 1821, at age 13, produced a penmanship specimen in a fine copperplate that prefigures his superb engraving seven or eight years later.6 In July 1825 he embarked on his maiden whaling voyage — a rise of initiation for all Nantucketers males — as a green hand in the New Bedford ship Columbus, Captain Thomas Brock, Jr., to the South Atlantic grounds. Apart from his own scrimshaw, the only known records of any portion of Myrick’s sea-faring career are a Seaman’s Protection Paper (passport),7 issued at New Bedford in June 1825 in anticipation of this first voyage; and the official logbook of the Columbus,8 which unfortunately does not mention Myrick or any of the crew by name. The ship arrived back in New Bedford in June 1826, but the returns of the voyage evidently have not survived (Alexander Starbuck, whose year-by-year statistical compilation is the standard reference in the field, does not even mention the voyage9), thus it is not possible to calculate its commercial result. But it appears to have been an entirely conventional outing, no more and no less eventful than the usual year-long Atlantic Ocean whaling cruise. In any case, it won Myrick his bones, qualifying him to sign as an Able Seaman on his next voyage.

The brand-new ship Susan, 349 tons, built 1826, was managed by Aaron Mitchell for a consortium of Nantucket merchants. She sailed on 21 August 1826 under the command of Nantucketer Frederick Swain, and did not return until 38 months later, after traversing the Atlantic and Pacific and doubling Cape Horn in pursuit of whales. No logbook or journal of the voyage is known to survive, but according to Starbuck they took 2,582 barrels of sperm oil and 121 barrels of right whale oil—a more-than-respectable success. Meanwhile, sometime in 1827 the third mate died at sea (neither his name nor his relationship to Myrick, if any, is recorded), with the probable result that there were promotions down the line. However, there is no record of whether Myrick, now comparatively experienced after a couple of years sperm whaling in two oceans, might have been made boatswain (harpooners), the next step up.

It was during the last several months of the Susan voyage, when the hold was full of oil, many teeth had been gathered, and the boatswain was pointed homeward, that Myrick engraved his Susan’s Teeth.
The Susan warped in to the wharf at Nantucket on 27 October 1829, the crew were disembarked and paid off, and Myrick retired forever from whaling. No further artwork of any kind by his hand has ever been discovered.

The details of his subsequent life are scarcely known. On Nantucket, on 3 January 1833, he married Mary P. Folger, a native of Sennett, New York, who was living at the time on Nantucket. Two years younger than Frederick, she was descended from Nantucket's great Folger clan, thus was a distant cousin of Benjamin Franklin and close cousin to many of the Island's leading whaling families. Fred and Mary produced three daughters and three sons, all born on Nantucket during 1839-47. Sometime after 1847 the whole family moved out to Auburn, N.Y., settling among a group of twenty-three whaling captains who had come to the region in waves since 1827.

The only certain Myrick relic from this New York period is a pewter charger (platter) engraved “Captain Frederick Myrick 1808-.” His death notice in an Auburn, N.Y., newspaper reads in full: “Died in Sennett, August 21, 1862, Capt. Frederick Myrick, aged 54 years and 4 months.” The significance of the honorific is not known: he was never a sea captain, there is no evidence that he was involved in the maritime trades after his whaling days, and he is not known at any time to have served in any state militia. It has always been assumed that after he left off whaling he was engaged in agricultural pursuits, and that he emigrated to New York to take advantage of superior farmland, perhaps on land inherited from his wife’s New York relatives. However, none of this goes beyond mere speculation. Ernest Helides, who discovered Myrick’s grave in 1997, reports:

... records indicate that he was originally buried in the North Cemetery at Sennett, New York;[and that on December 14, 1899 his body was disinterred and re-buried at the Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York, where it lies in a family plot with his wife Mary [who died in Sennett on 1 December 1899 at age 89] and three of his five known children.... The grave is marked with a sturdy, solid gray granite tombstone with raised low-relief lettering...  

Helides further reports that Myrick died intestate, and that the widow’s probate inventory survives but sheds little further light on Myrick’s activities. Myrick had evidently been involved in various financial transactions: “a substantial list of personal promissory notes for money loaned to others” is appended to the inventory. To Helides, this and a $1000 municipal bond from the City of Sheboygan “indicate a significant amount of wealth.” Perhaps. An inquiry from Michigan received by the Kendall Whaling Museum in 1998 seems to corroborate some kind of Sheboygan connection: one Frederick Myrick, said to have moved out there from New York State in the 1850s, built a grand and locally renowned house, and is believed sometime later to have returned to New York; but neither the dates nor specifics of the venture are documented.

More is known about the later careers of the Susan and Captain Swain. After the voyage on which Myrick made her famous, the Susan completed five or possibly six more whaling voyages (there is an unaccountable gap in the record, from May 1841 to November 1846, enough time to have made as many as two Pacific Ocean circuits). The Susan’s second and third voyages, like the first, were skippered by Frederick Swain (1829-37). Her last, under Captain Veranus Smith, commenced 5 December 1851; but on 26 April 1853, en route to the Arctic, 508 days out with 400 barrels of sperm oil on board, the Susan was wrecked. Frederick Swain, who before his three consecutive voyages as master of the Susan had commanded the ship Thomas 2d (1824-25), is credited with two brief outings in the Nantucket schooner Primrose (1837-38) and two in the schooner Tyleston of Nantucket (1839-40); but whether these were actually skippered by the same man or some other Captain Swain is not definitively established.

Ironically, the first official notice of Susan’s Teeth perpetuated the artist’s anonymity. The 1831 catalogue of the East India Marine Society of Salem, Massachusetts, includes entries for a “Tooth of a Sperm Whale, curiously carved” and “Another, carved by the same hand.” These are actually two Susan’s Teeth by Frederick Myrick (Cat. No. 291-01-02 and 291-01-22). Together with an unsigned tooth by Edward Burdett depicting the American merchant brigs Chinchilla and Tamaahma, they are the first scrimshaw known to have been accessioned by a museum. Though both artists were still alive, and both of the Myrick specimens are signed, neither artist is mentioned by name.

Over the next 135 years a few other Susan’s Teeth came to light and were incorporated into collections, but it was not until Everett U. Crosby’s modest treatise Susan’s Teeth and Much about Scrimshaw appeared in 1955 that the artist’s name and the Susan’s Teeth epitaph achieved any wider celebrity. In the groundswell of interest that followed the stupendous celebrity of scrimshaw collector John F. Kennedy in the 1960s, Frederick Myrick’s reputation as a scrimshaw pioneer was assured.

2. Several teeth inscribed and signed by Burdett predate Myrick’s earliest work (Kendall Whaling Museum, Nantucket Historical Association, Peabody Essex Museum, South Street Seaport, and elsewhere). Baschehet, Edward Burdett, passim; Dictionary, 23.
5. Myrick’s date of birth is absent from the Vital Records of Nantucket (which lists only his baptism year as 1818), but was discovered by Ernest Helides among the burial records in Sennett, New York.
7. New Bedford Free Public Library.
11. Private collection.
14. The East India Marine Society of Salem, founded as a society of merchants and sea captains in 1799, is now the Peabody Essex Museum.
FREDERICK MYRICK — CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ

Susan of Nantucket

Date: December 18, 1828
Size: 14.5 cm (5.7 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under reduced sail, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: No

Iconography: "Engraved f..." and "FWM" (inverted) at base, whale with multiple spouts, ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, whaleboat in water, whale with wail, whale's tail, all on obverse; "S...non Esquire" at base, ship profile with homeward bound pennant, lighthouse and light keeper's home, all on reverse; "Ship Susan on her passage / toward Nantucket / From her first Voyage," spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — surrounded by row of stars and two line arch containing motto, crossed American and British flags with rainbow under American flag and single line arch under British flag — two twined hearts between flags — two men shaking hands with "SW" at left and "SK" at right — at tip, all on leading edge; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master" on trailing edge; "December the 18th 1828" contained in two line tip divider.

Provenance: This piece was unknown to us until it was reported in a private collection in New York in 1998. A letter from the owner dated February 22, 1999, states in part: "The Susan's Tooth was given to me by one or more of three maiden Aunts: Margaret, Helen and Pauline Brown of New Rochelle, NY, and Starback Court, Nantucket, MA." The letter then goes on to say that it could conceivably have come from an aunt and uncle, Grace and Grenville G. H. Gilbert, of Ware, MA, or possibly, but not likely, purchased from Miss Aletha Macy of Nantucket. The owner subsequently advised that Miss Pauline Brown was in residence on Nantucket in 1955, and subsequently moved to New Rochelle, where she taught school and resided until her death. Based on this, and in the absence of any record of the 28-12-10 piece other than Crosby's listing (together with the fact that there are other errors in Crosby's work, including an incorrect date for 29-09-04), it is believed that the 28-12-10 piece does not exist, and that 28-12-18 is the earliest dated work of Myrick.

Remarks: Missing letters at base caused by chipping. The bow of the ship on the obverse points toward the base. In all of Myrick's work, this is the only case where the bow of the ship does not point toward the tip of the tooth.
28–12–22

Susan of Nantucket

Date: December 22, 1828
Size: 16.2 cm (6.4 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: No

Iconography: Schooner under sail at base, "The Susan on her passage home" in riband over ship profile with homeward bound pennant, ship without sails near lighthouse and light keeper's home, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto over hemisphere — four rows of stars over eagle — surrounded by serpentine vine, crossed American flags with rainbows and two twined hearts with vertical stripes between flags at tip, all on obverse; "The Ship Susan of Nantucket on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale, ship without sails at tip, all on reverse; "The Maria Islands" (cursive) under map of the islands on leading edge; "The Ship Susan Frederick / Swain Master / Dec'r 22nd 1828" on trailing edge; two line tip divider containing trees.

Provenance: First recorded sale by Sotheby Parke Bernet, New York City, auction June 23, 1979, lot 911; obverse and reverse illustrated. An article by Lita Solis-Cohen entitled "Susan's tooth scrimshaw misses its estimate" (Philadelphia Enquirer, September 7, 1986) states in part: The tooth turned up in England seven years ago when a woman, who said she found it at a jumble sale, consigned it to Sotheby's London. She did so, she said, after reading that a Susan's tooth had sold for $21,000. The tooth was then sent to New York and bought by a Boston collector who consigned it to Bourne's; obverse illustrated. The same information appears in the Maine Antique Digest of October 1986 in an article by Jackson Parker entitled "A Susan's tooth and Ship portraits top Marine Auction"; obverse illustrated. Sold by Bourne August 5, 1986, lot 61; obverse, reverse, trailing edge and tip detail illustrated. Subsequently resold by Bourne May 30, 1990, lot 48; obverse, reverse and trailing edge illustrated. Now in a private collection in New York.
28–12–26

**Ann of London**

**Date:** December 26, 1828

**Size:** 14.9 cm (5.9 inches) long

**Signed:** No

**Obverse:** Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.

**Reverse:** Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.

**Motto:** No

**Couplet:** No

Iconography: “The Ann on the coast of Japan” in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, two whales, whale’s tail, whale’s head jaw-up, ship under reduced sail at tip, all on obverse; “The Ann of London on her passage home” in riband over ship profile with homeward bound pennant, ship with homeward bound pennant but without sails near lighthouse and light keeper’s home, crossed British flags over single line arches at tip, all on reverse; “December the 26th 1828,” two serpentine vines at tip, both on leading edge; “The Ann of London / Samuel Barney Master,” two serpentine vines at tip, both on trailing edge; single line tip divider with dashes under.

Provenance: Sold to a private collector by Bourne August 6, 1985, lot 138; obverse, reverse, leading edge and trailing edge illustrated. Current location unknown.

28-12-28

Susan of Nantucket

Date: December 28, 1828
Size: 14.0 cm (5.5 inches) long
Signed: Frederick Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: “The Susan on the coast of Japan” in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s head jaw-up, whale’s tail, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto over two rows of stars over hemisphere — surrounded by serpentine vine, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; “The Susan boiling and killing sperm whales” in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, two whales (one with tail and head jaw-up), fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; “This was done by Frederick Myrick / for Mr. Prince Coffin Decem 28th 1828” under couplet on leading edge; “The Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master” on trailing edge; three line tip divider, serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Owned by Everett U. Crosby at the time he authored Susan’s Teeth and Much About scrimshaw (1955), where the obverse, reverse, and leading and trailing edges are illustrated. The obverse is also illustrated in Charles R. Meyer's Whaling and the Art of scrimshaw (1976) as part of the Barbara Johnson Collection. Sold by Sotheby Parke Bernet September 24-25, 1982, lot 420; obverse and reverse illustrated in the catalogue. Current location unknown.

Remarks: Paul Madden’s files indicate that this tooth was purchased by H. Frederick Johnson of Stamford, CT, with the name, address, and telephone number of his company supplied; these were confirmed by Nina and Robert Hellman. The telephone number has been reassigned, and the current subscriber has no knowledge of Mr. Johnson. A letter to the address given was not answered, nor was it returned, and there is no current telephone listing for his business. Attempts to contact Mr. Johnson through Sotheby’s were likewise unsuccessful. Photos: Crosby 1955.
29-01-02  Susan of Nantucket

Date: January 2, 1829
Size: 14.7 cm (5.8 inches) long
Signed: Frederick Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in ribbon over ship profile, whale alongside, two whaleboats in water, three whales with walls, whale with multiple spouts, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and ribbon in beak containing motto over two rows of stars over hemisphere — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; schooner under sail near base, "The ship Susan on her passage towards Nantucket" in ribbon over ship profile with homeward bound pennant, ship without sails near lighthouse and light keeper's home, ship with homeward bound pennant but without sails at tip, all on reverse; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master" in simple scroll border on leading edge; couplet on trailing edge; three lines over one line tip divider containing "Engraved by Frederick Myrick on board the Ship Susan, January the 2nd 1829"; serpentine vine at base.


Remarks: This and No. 29-01-22 (q.v.) are two of the first three known pieces of sailors' scrimshaw ever accessioned into a museum collection; the other is a tooth polychrome engraved and inscribed by whaleman Edward Burdett of Nantucket around the same time (circa 1827), depicting the merchant brigs Chinchilla and Tamahmah (Basseches, Edward Burdett, 1991: Cat. #8, page 22; Figs. 5a and 5b, pages 140). Despite that all three pieces were recent at the time, and both artists still alive, the three are recorded in the East India Marine Society catalogue of 1831 without noting either artist by name. Rather, Myrick's work is described generically as "Tooth of a Sperm Whale, curiously carved" and "Another, carved by the same hand," with no specific mention of the artist or the exquisitely engraved pictures on them.
Date: January 7, 1829
Size: 17.1 cm (6.8 inches) long
Signed: Fredk Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto: No
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: “The Ann of London a boiling and killing sperm whales” in riband over ship profile, two whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, crossed British flags over single line arches, all on obverse; “The Ann of London on the coast of Japan” in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, two whaleboats in water, whale, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s head jaw-up and whale’s tail. “This was done by Fredk Myrick / on board the ship Susan of / Nantucket for Mr. James Brown / on board the Ann of London,” ship without sails at tip, all on reverse; couplet, fouled anchor at tip, on leading edge; “The Ann of London Samuel Barney Master / January the 7th 1829” on trailing edge; three line chevron tip divider; serpentine vine at base.


Remarks: The authenticity of this piece has been roundly disputed. A letter dated May 20, 1991, written by the owner to the Vallejo Gallery prior to the May 22 Sotheby’s auction, states the following: “I and my family have had a pair of whales teeth, Lot No. 282 and Lot No. 275 [Sotheby’s, London], since a date around 1930. Before this the history is sketchy to say the least. It was last remembered verbally as being owned by my grandmothers parents in the Lavenham Suffolk area, a very well to do family, name of Goddam.” The Vallejo Gallery submitted the tooth to the Kendall Whaling Museum for formal authentication at the Scrimsaw Collectors’ Weekend, April 24-26 1992, where a panel consisting of Paul Madden, Nina Hellman, and others, chaired by Samuel Pennington (Maine Antique Digest), unanimously deemed it to be bogus. In early 1998 the tooth was examined by Janet West, who found it to be authentic, though in very poor condition, having been used as an ornament in a fish tank for some period. The obverse is so deteriorated that it cannot be definitively determined whether smoke from the tryworks was intended.
29-01-13  

Susan of Nantucket

Date: January 13, 1829  
Size: 15.7 cm (6.2 inches) long  
Signed: Fred Myrick  
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.  
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.  
Motto: “E PLURIBUS / UNUM”  
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: “The Susan of Nantucket on the Coast of Japan” in riband over ship profile with house flag, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, two whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s head jaw-up, whale’s tail, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto over hemisphere — stars over eagle’s wings — surrounded by row of stars and serpentine vine twined around single line arch, American flags over rainbows at tip all on obverse; “The Susan a boiling & killing sperm whales” in riband over ship profile with house flag, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s tail and head jaw-up, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; “The Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swan Master / January 13th 1829” on leading edge; couplet, “Engraved by Fred Myrick” over tip divider, both on trailing edge; three line chevron tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Crosby (Susan’s Teeth and Much About scrimshaw, 1955) lists it as being owned by the Hon. Breckinridge Long, who acquired it in the 1920s from an unknown source. Owned by Breckinridge Willcox, Potomac, MD.
### 29-01-20

**Susan of Nantucket**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>January 20, 1829</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size</td>
<td>16.2 cm (6.4 inches) long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed</td>
<td>F Myrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obverse</td>
<td>Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse</td>
<td>Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motto</td>
<td>&quot;E PLURIBUS / UNUM&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couplet</td>
<td>Version 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Iconography:** "The Susan boiling & killing sperm whales" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, whale with multiple spouts, two whale's with waifs, two whaleboats in water, whale, whale's tail and head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — stars over eagle's wings surrounded by row of stars and serpentine vine twined around serpentine arch, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's head jaw-up, whale's tail, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; "The Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master Jan 20th 1829" on leading edge; couplet, "Engraved by F Myrick" under tip divider, both on trailing edge; three line tip divider with slanted bands between lines; serpentine vine at base.

**Provenance:** Accessioned by the Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT, 1964; source unspecified, accession No. 37.1-49.
29-01-22  
Susan of Nantucket

Date:  January 22, 1829  
Size:  15.0 cm (5.9 inches) long  
Signed:  Fredk Myrick  
Obverse:  Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.  
Reverse:  Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.  
Motto:  "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"  
Couplet:  Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail and head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — stars around eagle's head over wings and riband — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan boiling and killing sperm whales" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale jaw-up, whale's tail and head jaw-up with two spouts between, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "The Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master Jan'y 22nd 1829," "Engraved by Fredk Myrick" above tip divider, both on trailing edge; two line tip divider with chevrons between; serpentine vine at base.


Remarks: This and No. 29-01-02 (q.v.) are two of the first three known pieces of sailors' scrimshaw ever accessioned into a museum collection; the other is a tooth polychrome engraved and inscribed by whalemman Edward Burdett of Nantucket around the same time, depicting the merchant vessels Chinchilla and Tamaahmaah (Basseches, Edward Burdett, 1991: Cat. #8, page 22; Figs. 5a and 5b, pages 146). Despite that all three pieces were recent at the time, and both artists still alive, the three are recorded in the East India Marine Society catalogue of 1831 without noting either artist by name. Rather, Myrick's work is described generically as "Tooth of a Sperm Whale, curiously carved" and "Another, carved by the same hand," with no specific mention of the artist or the exquisitely engraved pictures on them.
29–01–27

Susan of Nantucket

Date: January 27, 1829
Size: Frederick Myrick
Signed: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Motto: "The Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master"
Couplet: Version 2

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, two whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's head jaw-up, whale's tail, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over eagle surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan boiling and killing sperm whales" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail and head jaw-up, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge: "The Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master" on trailing edge; "Engraved by Frederick Myrick on board the ship Susan Jan? 27th 1829" contained in line two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Purchased from an antique shop in England during the 1930s by the present owner and his father, as a gift for his mother. Inherited by the present owner on her death. Private collection.
29-02-06  Susan of Nantucket

Date: February 6, 1829  
Size: 15.6 cm (6.1 inches) long  
Signed: Frederick Myrick  
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.  
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.  
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"  
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper’s home, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan whaling on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s tail and head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto over two triangles containing "TUE3" in each — three rows of stars over eagle and riband -surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master" (cursive) on leading edge; couplet on trailing edge; "Engraved by Frederick Myrick on board the ship Susan February 6th 1829" contained in two-line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

29-02-07-1

Susan of Nantucket

Date: February 7, 1829 (first of two with this date)
Size: 15.2 cm (6.0 inches) long
Signed: Frederick Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: “The Susan Whaling on the coast of Japan” in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — three rows of stars over eagle and riband — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; “The Susan boiling and killing sperm whales” in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s tail and head jaw-up, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; “The Ship Susan of Nantucket Frederick Swain Master” on leading edge; couplet on trailing edge; “Engraved by Frederick Myrick on board the ship Susan February the 7th, 1829” contained in two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Gift to the grandmother of the former owner. Sold to a private collector in Massachusetts, September 1998.
29-02-07-2

Susan of Nantucket

Date: February 7, 1829 (second of two with this date)
Size: 14.0 cm (5.5 inches) long
Signed: Fred* Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, cruising.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship without sails, at anchor.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: None

Iconography: "The Susan cruising for sperm whales" in riband over ship profile, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — three rows of stars over eagle and riband — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch — crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan lying at anchor at Mowee" in riband over ship profile on reverse; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain / Master," fouled anchor at tip, both on trailing edge; "Engraved by Fred* Myrick on board the Susan Feb 7th 1829" between lines of two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Sold by Bourne October 22, 1985, lot 151. The catalogue states the following: "This tooth has been in the possession of its present owner for more than 30 years. The owner is a descendant of Nathaniel Bowditch 6 times removed, and came to its present owner from an uncle whose middle name was Bowditch and was directly descended from Nathaniel Bowditch 4 times removed. It has always been understood that this tooth once belonged to Nathaniel Bowditch." Obverse and reverse illustrated in the catalogue. Present location unknown.

Remarks: Janet West made a cursory examination of this tooth during a visit to the USA in 1990, at which time the tooth was in a private collection in Chicago. She provided the three photographs taken on that occasion.
29-02-08  

Susan of Nantucket

Date: February 8, 1829  
Size: 15.5 cm (6.1 inches) long  
Signed: Frederick Myrick  
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sail backed, whaling scene.  
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound scene.  
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"  
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Ship Susan of Nantucket" in riband over ship profile with house flag at main mast, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three boats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto with three rows of stars (over, through and under riband) over hemisphere — surrounded by arch with serpentine vine open at top with flowers, crossed American flags over rainbows with "UNION" over flags, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband held in beak of eagle in flight over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, shaded fouled anchor at tip with "HOPE" between upper fluke and stock, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; blank trailing edge; double rope tip divider containing "Engraved by Frederick Myrick on board ship Susan February the 8th 1829"; two twined vines at base.

Provenance: Brought to Paul Madden in 1999 by the owner, from upstate New York, by whose family the tooth has been held for several generations.
29-02-09

Susan of Nantucket

Date: February 9, 1829
Size: 16.5 cm (6.5 inches) long
Signed: Frederick Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: Whale with waif. "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan boiling and killing sperm whales" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale's tail, two whale heads jaw-up, whale's tail, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto over hemisphere — stars over eagle and riband — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain / Master" on leading edge; couplet on trailing edge; "Engraved by Frederick Myrick on board the ship Susan February the 9th 1829" contained in two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: This tooth was brought to Paul Madden's attention in 1969, and was sold to Barbara Johnson. Sold by Sotheby Parke Bernet December 11-12, 1981, lot 336; reverse illustrated. Resold by Bourne, August 7, 1984, lot 101; obverse, reverse, leading and trailing edges, and obverse tip detail illustrated. Pictured in Charles R. Meyers Whaling and the Art of Scrimshaw (1976), from the Barbara Johnson Collection; three detail views of obverse tip, leading and trailing edges. Private collection in Connecticut.
29–02–12

**Susan of Nantucket**

**Date:** February 12, 1829

**Signed:** Fred Myrick

**Obverse:** Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.

**Reverse:** Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.

**Motto:** "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"

**Couplet:** Version 1

**Iconography:** Whale with multiple spouts, "The ship Susan boiling and killing" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale, whale’s tail and head jaw-up, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; "The ship Susan of Nantucket meeting with success" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto over hemisphere — two rows of stars over riband — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; couplet on trailing edge; "Engraved by Fred Myrick on board the ship Susan February the 12th 1829" contained in two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

**Provenance:** Collection of the Musée Océanographique, Monaco, accession No. 4305. An undated letter received in late 1997 from Michele Brun (Musée Océanographique staff) states in part, "The tooth was given by Dr. Richard, first curator of our Museum and hold [sic] here since June 1840."

**Remarks:** Photos courtesy of Musée Océanographique, Monaco.
29–02–16

Susan of Nantucket

Date: February 16, 1828
Size: 15.0 cm (5.9 inches) long
Signed: Fredrick Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under reduced sail, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: Version 2

Iconography: "The ship Susan trying out a sperm whale" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s head jaw-up, sloop under sail, brig under sail, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; schooner under sail, "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper’s home, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — surrounded by one row of stars and serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; "The Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain / Master" on leading edge; couplet, crossed arrows at tip, both on trailing edge; "Engraved by Fredrick Myrick on board of the ship Susan February the 16th 1829" contained in two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

29-02-23  Susan of Nantucket

Date:  February 23, 1829
Size:  18.0 cm (7.1 inches) long
Signed:  Fred Myrick
Obverse:  Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse:  Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto:  "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet:  No

Iconography: "The Susan boiling and killing sperm whales" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, two whales' tails, whale with waif, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — three rows of stars over eagle and riband — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain / Master" on leading edge; trailing edge blank; "Engraved by Fred Myrick on board of the Susan February the 23d 1829" contained in two line tip divider.

Provenance: Sold by Bourne August 17, 1971, lot 387, to the Dietrich American Foundation, accession No. 1971.384; on loan to Mystic Seaport. The Bourne catalogue illustrates the reverse and two tip details.

Remarks: A unique feature among Susan's teeth is the silver caps on the tip and base, connected by a silver chain approximately 23 inches (58.5 cm) long.
29-03-04  

Susan of Nantucket

Date: March 4, 1829  
Size: 16.8 cm (6.6 inches) long  
Signed: Fredk Myrick  
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.  
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.  
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"  
Couplet: Version 2

Iconography: "The Susan boiling & killing sperm whales" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail and head jaw-up, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over riband — surrounded serpentine vine twined around single line arch, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain / Master" on leading edge; couplet on trailing edge; "Engraved by Fredk Myrick on board the ship Susan March the 4th 1829" contained in two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Sold by Sotheby Parke Bernet (February 2, 1979, lot 644) to Jeffrey and Francine Cohen, Washington, DC; obverse and reverse illustrated in the catalogue. Resold by Bourne (Cohen Collection auction, July 31, 1989, lot 97) to a private collector in Indiana; obverse and reverse illustrated in the catalogue. The same two views appear in Lawrence, Scrimshaw: The Whaler’s Legacy (1993).
29-03-24

Susan of Nantucket

Date: March 24, 1829
Size: 14.0 cm, (5.5 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail and head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, fouled anchor at tip, both on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "The ship Susan of Nantucket / March the 24th 1829" on trailing edge; single line tip divider with row of stars beneath; serpentine vine at base.

29-03-27  

Susan of Nantucket

Date: March 27, 1829
Size: 15.0 cm (5.9 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under shortened, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: Version 2

Iconography: "The Susan amongst a school of whales" in riband over ship profile, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail, couplet, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan boiling and killing sperm whales" in riband over ship profile, smoke from tryworks, two whaleboats in water, whale with two spouts, whale's head jaw-up, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; "SCC" on leading edge; "Ship Susan / of / Nantucket / March 27th 1829" inverted at base; spread cagle with shield on breast, arrows and olive branch in talons, riband in beak containing motto and three rows of stars (two partial — no serpentine arch), all on trailing edge; single line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Descended in the Coffin-Somerby family of Nantucket and Boston to heirs in Florida; exhibited by Leigh Keno, Inc., at the New York Winter Antique Show, January 2000; acquired by Hyland Granby Antiques, Hyannisport, MA; thence sold to a private collection.

Remarks: The significance of the initials "SCC" is not known, but they may relate to the Coffin family (see 29-03-18 in Appendix 1, page 38).
29-08-20  Susan of Nantucket

Date: August 20, 1829
Size: 15.9 cm (6.3 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail and head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage," lighthouse and light keeper's home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "Ship Susan of Nantucket Frederick Swain / Master" on trailing edge; single line tip divider, branched vine at base.

Provenance: Collection of the New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, accession No. 1987.502. From a letter dated February 20, 1998: "We have no acquisition records for this piece, so we can tell you nothing of its provenance other than the fact that it has been in our collection for as long as any current or former staff can remember (at least 30 years)."
Susan of Nantucket

Date: August 22, 1829
Size: 14.9 cm (5.9 inches) long
Signed: F. Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale jaw-up, whale with multiple spouts, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain / Master" on trailing edge; "Engraved by F. Myrick on board the Susan" above, and "August the 22nd 1829" below, single line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Accessioned by the Nantucket Historical Association in 1918, source unspecified, accession No. 18.15.1. Listed by Crosby (Susan's Teeth and Much About Scrimshaw, 1955). Obverse, reverse, leading and trailing edges illustrated in Fladyerman, Scrimshaw and Scrimshanders, Whales and Whalers (1972).
29-08-24  |  Susan of Nantucket

Date:  |  August 24, 1829
Size:  |  17.0 cm (6.7 inches) long
Signed:  |  No
Obverse:  |  Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse:  |  Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto:  |  "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet:  |  Version 2

Iconography:  "The Susan of Nantucket on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "Ship Susan of Nantucket Frederick Swain / Master" on trailing edge; serpentine vine at base.


Remarks:  In the motto, [Deal] obliterated by abrasion.
Susan of Nantucket

Date: August 28, 1829
Size: 17.5 cm (6.9 inches) long
Signed: Fred Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan a whaling" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale jaw-up, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "Ship Susan / of / Nantucket," spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, both on trailing edge; "Engraved by Fred Myrick on board of the ship Susan August the 28th 1829" contained in two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>September 1, 1829</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Size:</td>
<td>17.7 cm (7.0 inches) long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed:</td>
<td>Fred Myrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Obverse:</td>
<td>Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse:</td>
<td>Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motto:</td>
<td>&quot;E PLURIBUS / UNUM&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couplet:</td>
<td>Version 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Iconography:** "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "The Ship Susan / of / Nantucket" on trailing edge; "Engraved by Fred Myrick on board of the Susan September the 1st 1829" contained in two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

**Provenance:** According to an article bearing the notation 1904 but with the original newspaper source unidentified (Old Dartmouth Historical Society, Tripp Collection, Scrapbook T-7, page 132), this piece was held at the time by William C. Russell of Hartford, CT. The article quotes a letter from Mr. Russell to the Boston Globe: "The mention of the Susan of Nantucket reminded me that I had a whale or else a walrus tooth, that was given my father by one of the owners of the Susan about the year 1835." The letter goes on accurately to describe this tooth. William Peterson (Mystic Seaport Museum) reports that he found the same information in a New London, CT, newspaper (The Day, November 14, 1904). A search undertaken by the Kendall Whaling Museum in January 1998 revealed that Mr. Russell died March 7, 1947, the only survivor being his daughter Mrs. Edith Russell Woolley, who died November 2, 1972: "In both his and his daughter's will and court papers there were many named persons who received jewelry and money amounts, land, autos, and personal items. There is nothing itemized by name or object. I was unable to find any reference to anything such as paintings, silver, books, or other items, such as a whale tooth." It was sold by a private collector from Michigan and New York at Sotheby's, June 26, 1986, lot 90; obverse and reverse illustrated in the catalogue. Its current location was discovered quite by chance in a telephone conversation with the current owner relating to a different Susan tooth, who acquired it via a subsequent private sale. Private collection in New York.
September 4, 1829

16.0 cm (6.3 inches) long

Fred Myrick

Starboard profile of ship under full sail, cruising.

Starboard profile of ship no sails set, at anchor.

"E PLURIBUS UNUM"

None

Iconography: "The Susan cruising for whales" in riband over ship profile, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, kite shaped oblong with cross bars at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan at anchor" in riband over ship profile, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; leading edge blank; "Ship Susan of Nantucket" on trailing edge; "Engraved by Fred Myrick on board of the Susan September the 4th 1829" contained in two line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

30 B–1

Barclay of Nantucket

Date: Undated
Size: 16.5 cm (6.5 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto: “E PLURIBUS / UNUM”
Couplet: Version 2

Iconography: “The Barclay on her homeward bound passage” in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper’s home, fouled anchor at tip, all on obverse; “The Barclay on the coast of Peru” in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in bezk containing motto — three rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags with halyards over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; “Ship Barclay of Nantucket / Joseph Barney / Master” on leading edge; couplet on trailing edge; single line tip divider, serpentine vine at base.

30 F-1

Frances of New Bedford

Date: Undated
Size: 16.5 cm (6.5 inches) long
Signed: Fred Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Frances on the coast of Peru" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's head jaw-up, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Frances on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "Ship Frances of New Bedford," spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, "Eng. by Fred Myrick," all on trailing edge; single line tip divider, serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Held privately in California. A memorandum from the owner, dated April 16, 1998, states, "The provenance... is not known prior to 1900. What is known is that this tooth... was traded to my Grandfather... sometime prior to 1900. The tooth was brought by him to our home about 1925 where it remained until it was given to me by my Mother about 1974."
30 F-2  Frances of New Bedford

Date: Undated
Size: 21.0 cm (8.3 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Frances on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Frances on the coast of Peru" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto three rows of stars over each wing tip — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse, "Ship Frances of New Bedford" on leading edge; couplet on trailing edge; single line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Bourne auction November 24, 1979, lot 312; reverse, partial leading edge and trailing edge illustrated. Bourne auction July 31, 1989, lot 85; obverse and reverse illustrated. Private collection in Massachusetts.
Susan of Nantucket

Date: Undated
Size: 16.8 cm (6.6 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, cruising.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan cruising for whales" in riband over ship profile, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto surrounded by vine arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "Ship Susan of Nantucket" on trailing edge; single line tip divider, serpentine vine at base.

30 S-2

**Susan of Nantucket**

Date: Undated
Size: 15.5 cm. (6.1 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale jaw-up, whale's tail, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto --- two rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "The Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain / Master" on trailing edge; single line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

305-3

Susan of Nantucket

Date: Undated
Size: 14.3 cm (5.6 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: "E PLURIBUS UNUM"
Couplet: Version 1

Iconography: "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail and head jaw-up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — triangular group of stars over each wing surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; "Ship Susan of Nantucket" on trailing edge; single line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Collection of the Old Dartmouth Historical Society, accession No. 93.54.4. Accessioned in 1993 from the Brayton collection.

Remarks: Fouled anchor at tip on reverse nearly obliterated.
### Susan of Nantucket

**Date:** Undated  
**Size:** 16.8 cm (6.6 inches) long  
**Signed:** No  
**Obverse:** Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.  
**Reverse:** Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.  
**Motto:** "E PLURIBUS / UNUM"  
**Couplet:** Version 1

Iconography: “The Susan on the coast of Japan” in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale jaw-up, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; “The Susan on her homeward bound passage” in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper’s home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge; “Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain / Master,” spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — three rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, all on trailing edge; single line tip divider, serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: At one time in the collection of Harold H. Kynett (Philadelphia and Nantucket); illustrated in a photograph of Kynett’s scrimshaw in *Unforgettable Intimacies*, issued with his Christmas Greetings in 1965. Sold to Fred Gardner (Nantucket), date unknown; thence to William D. Dinges (Huntsville, AL), Osona auction, August 6, 1994, lot 176; obverse, reverse, leading and trailing edges illustrated in the catalogue. Resold to a celebrity private collector in New York at Osona auction of August 16, 1997, lot 204; obverse, reverse, leading and trailing edges illustrated in the catalogue; thence to the latter collector’s estate in 1999. Present whereabouts unknown.

**Remarks:** Photos courtesy of Rafael Osona, Nantucket, Massachusetts.
30 S-5

**Susan of Nantucket**

**Date:** Undated

**Size:** 17.8 cm (7.0 inches) long

**Signed:** No

**Obverse:** Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.

**Reverse:** Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.

**Motto:** "E PLURIBUS UNUM"

**Couplet:** Version 2

**Iconography:** "A" at base, "The Susan on the coast of Japan" in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale's tail, whale with wail, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; "B" at base, "The Susan on her homeward bound passage" in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper's home, fouled anchor attip, all on reverse; "Ship Susan of Nantucket / Frederick Swain Master" and simple scroll bracket with branched vine at each tip under "Master," on leading edge; couplet on trailing edge; single line tip divider, serpentine vine at base.

**Provenance:** Purchased at auction in England by John Rinaldi, Kennebunkport, Maine, circa 1994.
APPENDIX 1 — ADDENDUM

29-03-18

Susan of Nantucket

Date: March 18, 1829
Size: 15.6 cm (6.1 inches) long
Signed: Frederick Myrick
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound scene.
Motto: "F PLURIBUS / UNUM"

Iconography: “The Susan on the coast of Japan” in riband over ship profile, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s tail and head jaw up, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — two rows of stars over eagle and riband — surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags over rainbows at tip, all on obverse; “The Susan on her homeward bound passage” in riband over ship profile, fouled anchor at tip, on reverse; couplet on leading edge; “SCC” on trailing edge; “Engraved by Frederick Myrick on board of the Susan of Nantucket March 18th 1829” contained in two-line tip divider; serpentine vine at base.

Provenance: Reported by Paul Madden in March 2000; owned at the time by Woodrow Krueger in Florida. The Krueger family resided with the family of Woodrow Beall in Baltimore in the 1930s, and Woodrow Krueger was named after Woodrow Beall. Mr. Krueger stated that the tooth was given to him by his mother, who had received it from Selma Wilkes Beall, wife of Woodrow Beall; that the Beall family traced ownership back to circa 1900, and that Mr. Beall had displayed the tooth for an extended period in a barber shop he operated in Baltimore. Mr. Krueger further reported that he had had the tooth examined at the Nantucket Whaling Museum in the early 1980s. Since August 2000 it has been in a private collection in New Hampshire.

Remarks: Examined and authenticated at the Kendall Whaling Museum in August 2000, by which time this Catalogue Raisonné was already in press. The significance of the initials “SCC” is not known, but they may relate to the Coffin family (see 29-03-27). Uniquely among Myrick’s scrimshaw, this tooth has holes drilled at the tip and base in the manner of a Fijian tabua. Wear at the edges of the holes nearest the trailing edge is consistent with it having been suspended from a cord passed through the holes, possibly in connection with the tooth having been displayed in the barber shop.
APPENDIX 2 — DOUBTFUL PIECES

28-12-10

Date: December 10, 1828

Provenance: Crosby (Susan’s Teeth and Much About Scrimshaw, 1955) lists this tooth as having been owned by Miss Pauline Brown of Nantucket.

Remarks: There are no illustrations or measurements of this piece, nor any mention of it other than by Crosby. Based on a provenance letter from the owner of 28-12-18 (the Susan dated December 18, 1828)—which convincingly claims descent of ownership of that tooth through Pauline Brown of Nantucket—it appears that Crosby’s date December 10th is incorrect by one digit, and that he is actually referring to the same tooth, which is correctly dated December 18th.

30 B-2

Date: Undated Barclay
Size: 15.0 cm (5.9 inches) long
Signed: No
Obverse: Starboard profile of ship with sails backed, whaling scene.
Reverse: Starboard profile of ship under full sail, homeward bound.
Motto: “E PLURIBUS / UNUM”
Couplet: Version 2

Iconography: “The Barclay on the coast of Peru” in riband over ship profile, whale alongside with blanket piece being hoisted aboard, three whaleboats in water, whale with multiple spouts, whale’s head, spread eagle bearing a shield on breast with arrows and olive branch in talons and riband in beak containing motto — three rows of stars over eagle and riband surrounded by serpentine vine twined around single line arch, crossed American flags with halyards over rainbows at tip, all on reverse; “The Barclay homeward bound” in riband over ship profile, lighthouse and light keeper’s home, fouled anchor at tip, all on reverse; couplet on leading edge: “Ship Barclay of Nantucket / Joseph Barney / Master” on trailing edge; single line tip divider, serpentine vine at base.


Remarks: Auctioned by Bourne (July 31, 1989, lot 86) as a Myrick piece. Forensic examination revealed this not to be the case. The iconography is the same as that on 30 B-1, but the engraving is very crude.

APPENDIX 3 — LOGBOOK PORTRAITS OF THE SHIPS SUSAN AND ANN, 1828

Contemporaneous watercolor vignettes in Joseph Taber’s journal of two whaling voyages in the New Bedford ship Rodman, Captain Robert M. Joy, 1828-30 and 1830-33. The Rodman encountered the Susan of Nantucket and the Ann of London at sea on separate occasions. Each approximately 4 x 6 cm (1 1/2 x 2 1/2 inches). [Kendall Whaling Museum, Log #766.]

Susan, June 1828
Tuesday Jun 17th 1828
first part brisk wind from
ESE stood to the NE at 1
PM spoke the ship Susan
Cpt Swain 2000 bbls...
Lat 31°05′ Long 169°00′

Ann, July 1828
Wednesday July 23
[1828]... at 2 PM spoke the
ship Ann of London
Cpt Barney 580 bbls...
Lat 29°40′ Long 169°30′

Susan, 1831
Monday Sept 12
11 AM spoke the ship Susan Cpt
Swain 1300 bbls
20 mos out...
Lat 25°41′
Long 173°15′
APPENDIX 4 — SUMMARY LIST OF THE SCRIMSHAW

Asterix (*) indicates that the piece was exhibited at the Frederick Myrick Symposium, Scrimshaw Collectors’ Weekend, The Kendall Whaling Museum, June 1998

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Date of Creation</th>
<th>Name of Ship</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28-12-18</td>
<td>December 18, 1828</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Discussed by Crosby 1955 (incorrectly dated as December 10, 1828).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-12-22</td>
<td>December 22, 1828</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Current whereabouts unknown.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-01-02</td>
<td>January 2, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Held in the United Kingdom. Examined and authenticated by Janet West.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-01-20</td>
<td>January 20, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Held in the United Kingdom.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-01-22</td>
<td>January 22, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Discussed by Crosby 1955.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-01-27</td>
<td>January 27, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>29-02-06</td>
<td>February 6, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Current whereabouts unknown.</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-02-07-1</td>
<td>February 7, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Disclosed and authenticated since June 1998.</td>
</tr>
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<td>29-02-07-2</td>
<td>February 7, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Held in Monaco.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29-02-08</td>
<td>February 8, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Held in the United Kingdom.</td>
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<td>29-02-09</td>
<td>February 9, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
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<td>29-02-12</td>
<td>February 12, 1829</td>
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<td>29-02-16</td>
<td>February 16, 1829</td>
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<td>February 23, 1829</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-03-04</td>
<td>March 4, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
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<td>March 18, 1829</td>
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<td>March 27, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-08-20</td>
<td>August 20, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
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<td>29-08-22</td>
<td>August 22, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Discussed by Crosby 1955.</td>
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<td>August 24, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Discussed by Crosby 1955.</td>
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<td>29-08-28</td>
<td>August 28, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
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<td>29-09-01</td>
<td>September 1, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
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<tr>
<td>29-09-04</td>
<td>September 4, 1829</td>
<td>Susan of Nantucket</td>
<td>Discussed by Crosby 1955 (incorrectly dated as September 11, 1829).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 B-1 [undated] Barclay of Nantucket
30 B-2 [undated] Barclay of Nantucket
30 F-1 [undated] Frances of New Bedford
30 F-2 [undated] Frances of New Bedford
30 S-1 [undated] Susan of Nantucket
30 S-2 [undated] Susan of Nantucket
30 S-3 [undated] Susan of Nantucket
30 S-4 [undated] Susan of Nantucket
30 S-5 [undated] Susan of Nantucket

Not Myrick’s work. See Appendix 2, p. 39.
APPENDIX 5 — CHRONOLOGY OF FREDERICK MYRICK

1808 Frederick Myrick born on Nantucket, April 28. (The date of his birth is absent from the Vital Records of Nantucket, but is definitively known from burial records of Sennett, New York; reported by Ernest Helides.)


1818 Myrick baptized on Nantucket (Vital Records of Nantucket).

1821 While attending the Franklin School on Nantucket, at age 13 Myrick produces a formal penmanship specimen (collection of the Nantucket Historical Association).

1822 Fellow-Nantucketer Edward Burdett (1805-1833) embarks on his first voyage, ship Foster of Nantucket, June 24, 1822; returns to Nantucket December 27, 1824.

1824 Burdett makes his first scrimshaw (the first known engraved pictorial scrimshaw by an American hand), vessel unknown, in the Pacific, circa 1824.

1825 Myrick is issued a Seaman's Protection Paper (passport) at New Bedford in June; embarks on his first voyage, July 8, as a green hand, ship Columbus of New Bedford, Captain Thomas Brock, Jr., to the South Atlantic whaling grounds (returns to New Bedford June 26, 1826).

1826 Myrick embarks on his second voyage, ship Susan of Nantucket, Captain Frederick Swain, to the Pacific Ocean whaling grounds, August 21.

1828 Earliest known date on Myrick scrimshaw, ship Susan, December 18 (not December 10, as erroneously reported by Crosby).

1829 Latest known date on Myrick scrimshaw, ship Susan, September 4. The Susan arrives back at Nantucket, October 27. The 38 months' voyage, comprising about 32 months in the Pacific and the remainder in transit, produced 2,582 barrels of sperm oil and 121 barrels of right whale oil, which would have made it a substantial success.

1831 The East India Marine Society, Salem, Massachusetts, catalogues two Susan's Teeth by Frederick Myrick (29-01-02 and 29-01-22) as "Tooth of a Sperm Whale, curiously carved" and "Another, carved by the same hand," with no mention of the artist or the pictures engraved on them; likewise catalogues anonymously the tooth by Edward Burdett depicting the Chinchilla and Tamaahmaah.

1833 Myrick marries Mary P. Folger, a native of Sennett, New York, who was living at the time on Nantucket; on Nantucket, January 3, 1833. The couple produced six children, three daughters and three sons, all born on Nantucket between 1839 and 1847.

1847 Myrick family moves to central New York State, region of Auburn and Sennett. Possible later sojourn in City of Sheboygan, Michigan (unconfirmed), thence returned to Sennett, N.Y.

1862 "Died in Sennett, August 21, 1862, Capt. [sic] Frederick Myrick, aged 54 years and 4 months" (Auburn [N.Y.] Daily Advertiser and Auburn Union, August 24, 1862; reported by Ernest Helides). "New York burial records indicate that [Myrick] was originally buried in the North Cemetery at Sennett, New York[,] and that on December 14, 1899 his body was disinterred and re-buried at the Fort Hill Cemetery in Auburn, New York, where it lies in a family plot with his wife Mary [who died in Sennett on 1 December 1899 at age 89] and three of his five known children.... The grave is marked with a sturdy, solid gray granite tombstone with raised low-relief lettering ..." (Helides, "The Mystery and Discovery of Frederick Myrick’s Gravesite," unpublished manuscript, 1998, Kendall Whaling Museum archive).
APPENDIX 6 — SYMPOSIUM ON FREDERICK MYRICK AND "SUSAN'S TEETH"
Held at the 7th Kendall Whaling Museum Scrimshaw Collectors’ Weekend, 26-27-28 June 1998

Institutional Sponsors
The Dietrich American Foundation, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania
The Kendall Whaling Museum, Sharon, Massachusetts
Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Connecticut
Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, Massachusetts
New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord
Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New Bedford, Massachusetts
Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts

Lenders to the Exhibition
The Dietrich American Foundation, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania
Ernest Helides, Chatham, Massachusetts
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Mystic Seaport Museum, Mystic, Connecticut
Nantucket Historical Association, Nantucket, Massachusetts
New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord
Old Dartmouth Historical Society, New Bedford, Massachusetts
Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, Massachusetts
John Rinaldi, Kennebunkport, Maine
Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont
Breckinridge Willcox, Potomac, Maryland

Anonymous Private Collections in California (2)
Anonymous Private Collections in Connecticut (2)
Anonymous Private Collection, Florida
Anonymous Private Collection, Indiana
Anonymous Private Collection, Massachusetts
Anonymous Private Collections in New York (2)

Papers Presented
Susan’s Teeth: Why All the Fuss?
Hon. Paul E. Vardeman, Kansas City, Missouri

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man:
Frederick Myrick Biography 1808-1862
Stuart M. Frank, Ph.D., The Kendall Whaling Museum

An Island Offshore: The Nantucket Milieux
Michael Jehle, Nantucket Historical Association

Scrimshaw in the First Generation 1817-1833
Joshua Basseches, M.B.A., Harvard Museum of Natural History

"Curiously Carved": Early Collections of Susan’s Teeth 1831-1916
Daniel R. Finamore, Ph.D., Peabody Essex Museum of Salem

Small Things Remembered: Principles of Forensics
Applied to the Study of Frederick Myrick
Donald E. Ridley, P.E., The Kendall Whaling Museum

Well and Carefully: Surface Characteristics and Forensic Observations
Janet West, Ph.D., Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge

Learning the ABC’s: Calligraphy and Letter Forms
Donald E. Ridley and Stuart M. Frank

Pesky Little Fellows: Oarsmen and Human Figure Forms
Desmond T. Liddy, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Solving the Rosetta Stone: The Template Hypothesis
Judith Lund, Old Dartmouth Historical Society

Scrimshaw, the China Trade, and Maritime History
Mary Malloy, Ph.D., Sea Education Association, Woods Hole, Mass.

Eagles and Mottoes: Myrick’s Iconography and the American Mainstream
Margaret E. Vose, Ph.D., Eastern Connecticut State University

Footprints of Giants: Interpreting Myrick in Context
Catherine Wood-Brooks, Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont
REFERENCES AND ABBREVIATIONS  
cited or alluded to in the Catalogue

Basseches  

Bourne  
Richard A. Bourne Co., auctioneers, Hyannisport, Massachusetts.

Crosby  

Dictionary...  

Eldred  
Robert C. Eldred Co., auctioneers, East Dennis, Massachusetts.

Flayderman  

Hyland Granby  
Hyland Granby Antiques, Hyannisport, Massachusetts.

Keno  

Lawrence  

More Scrimshaw...  

Madden  
Paul Madden Antiques, Sandwich, Massachusetts.

Meyer  

Osona  
Rafael Osona Auctioneers, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Rinaldi  
John Rinaldi, antiques, Kennebunkport, Maine.

Smith  

Sotheby Parke Bernet  
Sotheby Parke Bernet, auctioneers, New York.

Sotheby’s  
Sotheby’s, auctioneers, London and New York.

Vallejo  
Vallejo Gallery, Newport Beach, California.

CONTRIBUTORS

DONALD E. RIDLEY, a retired marine engineer, is Assistant Curator for Scrimshaw and a distinguished member of the panel of Advisory Curators at the Kendall Whaling Museum, where he manages the museum’s Scrimshaw Forensics Laboratory and co-chairs the Scrimshaw Collectors’ Weekends. He is currently working on a forensic study of the Ceres Engraver’s scrimshaw and a history of steam navigation.

STUART M. FRANK is Director and Chief Curator of the Kendall Whaling Museum and author of Herman Melville’s Picture Gallery, Dictionary of Scrimshaw Artists, More Scrimshaw Artists, and The Book of Pirate Songs, also Fakeshaw: A Checklist of “Plastic” Scrimshaw, as well as many articles, monographs, chapters, and encyclopedia entries on scrimshaw and maritime art, literature, and music.

PAUL MADDEN, an antiques dealer in Sandwich, Massachusetts, is a renowned authority on Frederick Myrick and Edward Burdett. He has probably handled more Susan’s Teeth than any other living individual and was among the first to recognize the iconographical characteristics of Myrick’s scrimshaw.

PAUL E. VARDEMAN, a retired judge in Kansas City, Missouri, is an accomplished scrimshaw artist and whaling historian in his own right, and a frequent contributor at the Kendall Whaling Museum Scrimshaw Collectors’ Weekends. His comprehensive inventory of Myrick’s work was the original basis of this Catalogue Raisonné.

JANET WEST is based at the Scott Polar Research Institute at the University of Cambridge (England), where she has charge of that institution’s scrimshaw collection. She is an Advisory Curator for Scrimshaw at the Kendall Whaling Museum, co-author (with Arthur G. Credland) of Scrimshaw: The Art of the Whalers, and author of numerous articles on scrimshaw and maritime art.

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