Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

# Fine 19th-Century Shark Vertebrae Walking Cane

£245

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REF: 1295

Height: 96 cm (37.8")

Description

A rare and finely made 19th-century walking cane constructed from shark vertebrae, an exceptional example of the inventive natural-history objects and exotic materials prized during the Victorian era. Unusual, tactile, and immediately striking, it transforms a practical gentleman's accessory into a remarkable work of decorative craftsmanship.

The shaft is formed from a closely articulated succession of shark vertebrae, their naturally concentric structure creating a distinctive repeating pattern along the length of the cane. Each vertebra contributes subtle variation in colour, texture, and form, giving the piece a wonderfully organic surface that could not be reproduced in conventional wood, bone, or ivory. The result is both sculptural and surprisingly refined.

During the 19th century, unusual materials from the natural world were increasingly valued for their curiosity, rarity, and decorative potential. Objects made from shark vertebrae were admired not only for the skill required to assemble them, but also for the sense of exploration and distant travel they evoked. A cane of this quality would have been an assured conversation piece, intended to be noticed and appreciated.

Today, this extraordinary walking cane would make a distinguished addition to a collection of antique canes, natural-history curiosities, Victorian accessories, or maritime objects. It is a particularly compelling piece for a cabinet of curiosities, combining fine workmanship, an extraordinary material, and the enduring fascination of 19th-century collecting.



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