

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **A VERY RARE FIJIAN POLE CLUB 'BOWAI' WITH A MASS OF RAISED STUD PROJECTIONS TO THE HEAD**

A VERY RARE FIJIAN POLE CLUB 'BOWAI' WITH A MASS OF RAISED STUD PROJECTIONS TO THE HEAD . THE SHAFT ENTIRELY COVERED WITH 'SHARK TOOTH' CARVING

18 TH – EARLY 19 CENTURY

SIZE : 75 CMLONG – 29½ INS LONG

## **LITERATURE**

THE FIJIAN WARRIOR ALWAYS CHOSE A CLUB THAT SUITED HIS STATURE AND NATURAL MOVEMENTS AND HE USED DIFFERENT WEAPONS FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF BLOW . STRIKERS OR CRUSHERS , AS IN THIS EXAMPLE , WERE USED WITH A DOWNWARD SMASHING MOTION .

IN THE USE OF ALL WEAPONS THE MANNER OF KILLING AND NOT JUST THE KILLING ITSELF WAS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE . EVEN AFTER THE INTRODUCTION OF MUSKETS TO THE ISLANDS THE TRADITIONAL CLUB WAS PREFERRED SINCE IT WAS NOT JUST A WEAPON , BUT A WORK OF ART , A MARK OF RANK , A SYMBOL OF MANHOOD , AND A REPOSITORY OF ACCUMULATED 'MANA' . THESE QUALITIES WERE NOT EASILY TRANSFERRED TO A FOREIGN COLONIAL METAL MUSKET AND UNLIKE NEW ZEALAND THE NUMBER OF WAR CASUALTIES DID NOT INCREASE WITH THEIR INTRODUCTION .