

Finch & C^o



A SOUTH AMERICAN GUYANA, (GUIANA) HARDWOOD WAR CLUB , THE HANDLE WITH A TWILL WEAVE BASKETRY POMMEL
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19 TH CENTURY
SIZE : 63 CMLONG – 24¾ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE TROPICAL FOREST AND GRASSLAND AREAS DRAINED BY THE AMAZON AND ORINOCO RIVERS SUSTAINED A HUNTING , FISHING AND GATHERING LIFESTYLE SUPPLEMENTED BY SWIDDEN FARMING . THIS VAST AREA OF THE AMAZONIAN REGION WAS INHABITED BY THREE MAIN TRIBAL GROUPS , THE GUARANI TUPI , THE ARAWAK OR MAIPURE , AND THE CARIB .

KNOWLEDGE OF METALS DID NOT REACH THESE PEOPLES BEYOND THE ANDES FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS AFTER THE SPANISH CONQUEST , AND WEAPONS CONTINUED TO BE FASHIONED FROM HARDWOODS , BONE AND STONE . THE GUIANA WAR CLUB IS A MAN'S MOST POWERFUL AND ENDURING ACCOUTREMENT AND IS A MASCULINE SYMBOL USED FOR RITUAL WRESTLING AND STEREOTYPED BATTLES BETWEEN VISITORS FROM FRIENDLY VILLAGES . MORE SERIOUSLY IT IS USED IN REPRISAL FOR ADULTERY . THE BASKETRY - SHEATHED POMMEL MAINTAINS A GOOD GRIP AND THE HARDWOOD BLADE IS USED TO PIN THE ADVERSARY'S NECK TO THE GROUND WHILE THE CROWN OF HIS HEAD IS SLASHED TO THE BONE WITH A SPECIAL 'SCRATCHING KNIFE' . THE FLAT BLADE CAN BE USED TO INCAPACITATE A MAN BY KNOCKING HIS WIND OUT , OR THE SHARP END OF THE BLADE CAN BE DIRECTED AT THE VICTIM AND WILL EASILY SPLIT A MAN'S HEAD LIKE A MELON .