

Finch & C^o



TWO RARE GILBERT ISLANDS WOOD AND SHARK TOOTH DAGGERS

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EARLY 19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 46 CMLONG , AND 37 CMLONG – 18 INS LONG AND 14½ INS LONG

ONE SOLD

LITERATURE

THE GILBERT ISLANDS LIE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC AND ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY PART OF MICRONESIA . THE ISLANDS HAVE BEEN UNDER CONTINUOUS BRITISH RULE SINCE THE 18 TH CENTURY .

BEFORE EUROPEAN INTERFERENCE AND THE ONSLAUGHT OF INTRODUCED DISEASES MICRONESIA WAS HEAVILY POPULATED AND FIGHTING WAS COMMON . ON THE GILBERT ISLAND COMBAT WAS SO FREQUENT , ELABORATE OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT WAS EXTENSIVELY MANUFACTURED .

SHARKS TEETH WERE A USEFUL SUBSTITUTE FOR THE FLAKINESS OF STONE , AND COCONUT FIBRE CORDAGE , BOTH TWISTED AND PLAIED WAS EXPERTLY MADE AND USED IN GREAT NUMBERS ON WEAPONS EACH INDIVIDUALLY PIERCED AND SEWN INTO GROOVES ALONG THE SIDES OF DAGGERS AND SPEARS . TO COUNTERACT THE LACERATING EFFECT OF THESE WEAPONS , THICK PLAIED COIR ARMOUR WAS DEVELOPED IN THE GILBERT'S COMPOSED OF A RIGID CUIRASS WITH HIGH COLLAR AND SEPARATE TROUSER AND SLEEVE SECTIONS . A SPIKY FISH SKIN HELMET COMPLETED THE OUTFIT .