

Finch & C^o



A TONGAN 'APA?APAI' CLUB

A TONGAN 'APA?APAI' CLUB . OLD DRY PATINA

EARLY 19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 107 CMLONG – 42 INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE TASK OF DIFFERENTIATING CLUBS FROM THE FIJI - TONGA - SAMOA AREA IS DIFFICULT . CLUBS WERE GAINED AS PRESTIGIOUS WAR TROPHIES AND EXCHANGED FROM ISLAND TO ISLAND , AND THE THREE GROUPS HAVE BEEN IN PERIODIC CONTACT FOR AT LEAST 3000 YEARS .

HOWEVER , STEVEN PHELPS MAINTAINS (THE JAMES HOOPER COLLECTION) THAT THE BUTTS OF 'APA?APAI' CLUBS REVEAL A FAVOURED TONGAN FORM OF BUTT LUG , ITS SIDES NOT REACHING THE FULL WIDTH OF THE CLUB SHAFT . ON SAMOAN CLUBS THEY TOOK THE FORM OF A BROAD PIERCED TRIANGLE , THE SIDES OF WHICH SLOPED DOWN TO THE FULL WIDTH OF THE HANDLE .

TONGAN 'APA?APAI' CLUBS WERE ALMOST CERTAINLY INTRODUCED TO SAMOA WHERE THEY BEGAN TO BE MADE AND WERE CALLED 'UATOGI.'