

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



## **MELANESIAN NEW CALEDONIA KANAK CARVED HARDWOOD WAR CLUB**

A MELANESIAN NEW CALEDONIA KANAK CARVED HARDWOOD WAR CLUB THE LARGE MUSHROOM SHAPED HEAD WITH  
PROJECTING POINTED SPURS

OLD SMOOTH SILKY NATURAL PATINA

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 79.5CM LONG – 31¼ INS LONG

SEE: FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 11, ITEM NO. 79 & 80 FOR OTHER EXAMPLES

## **LITERATURE**

ON BOARD THE SHIP 'RESOLUTION' IN 1774 CAPTAIN COOK FIRST TOOK SIGHT OF THE FERTILE MELANESIAN ISLANDS  
WHOSE LANDSCAPE HE THOUGHT RESEMBLED THAT OF THE WEST COAST OF SCOTLAND. HE NAMED THEM 'NEW  
CALEDONIA'. NOW KNOWN AS KANAK THE ISLANDS ARE SURROUNDED BY BARRIER REEFS AND WARM PACIFIC SEAS AND  
HAVE A UNIQUE INDIGENOUS FLORA AND FAUNA. THE FRUIT BAT OR FLYING FOX WAS THE SOLE RESIDENT MAMMAL  
BEFORE THE ARRIVAL OF MAN.

CAPTAIN COOK SPENT TWO WEEKS IN THE ISLANDS AND EXPERIENCED VERY LITTLE HOSTILITY FROM THE PEOPLE WHO  
HAD, UNTIL THEN, DEVELOPED A CULTURE IN RELATIVE ISOLATION, AND WHOSE ART WAS THEREFORE FREE FROM MOST  
OUTSIDE INFLUENCES. THE NEW CALEDONIANS HAD A HIGHLY DEVELOPED SENSE OF FORM AND THESE SKILFULLY  
WORKED CLUBS WERE PROBABLY ALSO MADE AS INSIGNIA OF RANK AND OFFICE AS WELL AS FOR USE IN COMBAT.