

Finch & C^o



AN UNUSUAL 'KANAK' HARDWOOD WAR CLUB

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FINE DARK GLOSSY PATINA FROM USE, A LIGHTER BAND WHERE A NOW LOST 'BINDING' WOULD HAVE ACTED ALSO AS A
'WRIST THONG'

WOOD

NEW CALEDONIAN, KANAK

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 75CM LONG - 29½ INS LONG

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LITERATURE

DURING THE 19TH CENTURY THE ISLANDERS OF THE NEW HEBRIDES SUFFERED EXTREME ABUSE AT THE HANDS OF WHALERS AND OTHER TRADERS AND THEY BECAME KNOWN FOR THEIR HOSTILITY. THEIR MOST FAMOUS VICTIM WAS THE REVEREND JOHN WILLIAMS, A WELSH METHODIST MISSIONARY, 'THE MARTYR OF ERROMANGA' WHO WAS KILLED IN 1839, AND EVER AFTER COMMEMORATED IN A 'BAXTER' PRINT.

DESPITE THIS, ALTHOUGH INTER-TRIBAL WARFARE WAS FREQUENT ON THE ISLANDS IT TOOK THE FORM OF AMBUSHES AND LOCAL SKIRMISHES AND THERE WERE FEW FATALITIES. A CARVED WOOD CLUB SUCH AS THIS WAS THE MOST FAVOURED WEAPON.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION, READING, BERKSHIRE, ENGLAND

EX ENGLISH ART MARKET

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION