

Finch & C^o



A FINE FIJIAN CARVED CASUARINA WOOD CEREMONIAL CLUB 'KINIKINI'

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MID 19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 112 CMLONG - 44 INS LONG

LITERATURE

THESE ORNATELY DECORATED CEREMONIAL PADDLE CLUBS WERE EXCESSIVELY BROAD , ALMOST FAN LIKE AND WERE MADE FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF CHIEFS AND PRIESTS . THEY WERE OFTEN HANDED DOWN AS HEIRLOOMS AND LONG USE HAS WORN AWAY SOME OF THE DESIGN AND PRODUCED A SMOOTH PATINA ACROSS THE SURFACE .

FIJIAN CLUBS WERE NOT ONLY USED IN WARFARE WHICH WAS THE MAIN OCCUPATION OF FIJIAN SOCIETY , BUT ALSO FOR DANCING , THE ENTERTAINMENT OF VISITORS AND IN SPORT . HOWEVER CLUBS SUCH AS THIS WERE RESERVED FOR RITUAL USE , ALTHOUGH KAEPLER STATES FROM 'THE STONE AGE TO THE SPACE AGE IN 200 YEARS' ; PAGE : 28 , THAT THESE CLUBS WERE ALSO USED BY CHIEFS AND PRIESTS TO DEFLECT ARROWS ON THE BATTLEFIELD .