

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



## **A VERY RARE MAIDU , CALIFORNIAN NATIVE AMERICAN CEREMONIAL HEAD PLUME**

A VERY RARE MAIDU , CALIFORNIAN NATIVE AMERICAN CEREMONIAL HEAD PLUME . OLD ILLEGIBLE COLLECTION LABEL .  
WOOD , CLAMSHELL BEADS , HEMP TWINE , RED SHAFTED-FLICKER TAIL FEATHERS , PRAIRIE FALCON FEATHERS , EAGLE  
FEATHER , RED TAILED HAWK FEATHER  
19 TH CENTURY  
SIZE : 76 CMLONG – 30 INS LONG  
CF ( TWO EXAMPLES IN THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM, NEW YORK , NO.S 08 491 8802 , 08 491 8812

## **LITERATURE**

CF ( TWO EXAMPLES IN THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM, NEW YORK , NO.S 08 491 8802 , 08 491 8812 )  
THE MAIDU LIVED AS NEIGHBOURS OF THE POMO ON THE EASTERN EDGE OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY AND THE  
ADJACENT SIERRA NEVADA MOUNTAINS AND WERE DIVDED INTO THREE LINGUISTIC GROUPS , NORTH WESTERN OR  
KONKOW , THE MOUNTAIN MAIDU , AND THE SOUTHERN MAIDU OR NISENAN .  
THIS HEAD PLUME WAS USED IN THE TOTO DANCE , A SACRED CEREMONIAL DANCE THAT COULD BE PERFORMED AT ANY  
TIME OF THE YEAR . IT WAS WORN ACROSS THE BACK OF THE HEAD STUCK INTO THE HAIR , TOGETHER WITH A FLICKER  
BAND ON THE FOREHEAD AND PLUME STICKS THAT WERE HELD IN THE HAND . IT MAY ALSO HAVE SERVED AS A WAND  
INDICATING A MEMBERS STATUS AND POSITION IN THE SECRET SOCIETY . MAIDU DANCE REGALIA WAS OWNED  
INDIVIDUALLY AND OFTEN MADE BY THE USER AND STORED FOR REPEATED USE . HOWEVER , THEY ARE RARELY SEEN  
AS IT WAS MAIDU CUSTOM TO DESTROY ALL REGALIA AT THE OWNERS DEATH .