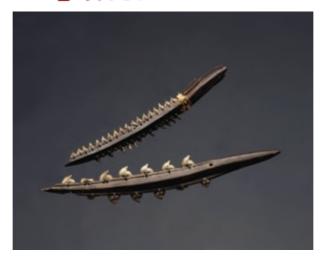
Finch & Co



TWO RARE GLBERT ISLANDS WOOD AND SHARK TOOTH DAGGERS

LITERATURE

THE GILBERT ISLANDS LIE IN THE WESTERN PACIFIC AND ARE GEOGRAPHICALLY PART OF MICRONESIA. THE ISLANDS HAVE BEEN UNDER CONTINUOUS BRITISH RULE SINCE THE 18 TH CENTURY.

BEFORE EUROPEAN INTERFERENCE AND THE ONSLAUGHT OF INTRODUCED DISEASES MICRONESIA WAS HEAMLY POPULATED AND FIGHTING WAS COMMON. ON THE GILBERT ISLAND COMBAT WAS SO FREQUENT, ELABORATE OFFENSIVE AND DEFENSIVE EQUIPMENT WAS EXTENSIVELY MANUFACTURED.

SHARKS TEETH WERE A USEFUL SUBSTITUTE FOR THE FLAKINESS OF STONE, AND COCONUT FIBRE CORDAGE, BOTH TWISTED AND PLAITED WAS EXPERTLY MADE AND USED IN GREAT NUMBERS ON WEAPONS EACH INDIMDUALLY PIERCED AND SEWN INTO GROOVES ALONG THE SIDES OF DAGGERS AND SPEARS. TO COUNTERACT THE LACERATING EFFECT OF THESE WEAPONS, THICK PLAITED COIR ARMOUR WAS DEVELOPED IN THE GILBERT'S COMPOSED OF A RIGID CUIRASS WITH HIGH COLLAR AND SEPARATE TROUSER AND SLEEVE SECTIONS. A SPIKY FISH SKIN HELMET COMPLETED THE OUTFIT.