

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



## **A NEW ZEALAND MAORI LURE FISH HOOK 'MATAU'**

A NEW ZEALAND MAORI LURE FISH HOOK 'MATAU' , WOOD , PAUA SHELL , BONE AND TWISTED FLAX FIBRE

19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 11.5 CM HIGH – 4½ INS HIGH

## **LITERATURE**

FISH WAS AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FOOD FOR THE ANCESTRAL MAORI AS THEY ORIGINALLY CAME TO THE TEMPERATE SOUTHERN LAND OF NEW ZEALAND WITHOUT PIG OR JUNGLE FOWL .

IN THE NORTH ISLAND THE FISH 'KAHAWAL' WAS CAUGHT WITH UN-BAITED TROLLING OR SPINNING HOOKS SUCH AS THIS EXAMPLE TOWED AT SPEED BEHIND CANOES . THE WOOD SHANK WAS SET ON THE INSIDE WITH A PLATE OF PAUA ( HALIOTIS IRIS ) SHELL WHICH SERVED TO LURE THE FISH ONTO THE BONE POINT . THE SUCCESS OF THIS METHOD OF FISHING CAN BE GAUGED BY THE FACT THAT IT WAS RETAINED EVEN WHEN METAL BECAME AVAILABLE .