

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



**A VERY RARE FIJIAN POLE CLUB 'BOWAI' WITH A MASS OF RAISED STUD PROJECTIONS TO THE HEAD**

A VERY RARE FIJIAN POLE CLUB

EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

SIZE : 117 CMLONG – 46 INS LONG

## **LITERATURE**

THERE IS A VERY SIMILAR FIJIAN POLE CLUB TO THIS EXAMPLE IN THE STEVEN PHELPS CATALOGUE OF THE JAMES HOOPER COLLECTION 'ART AND ARTEFACTS OF THE PACIFIC , AFRICA AND THE AMERICA'S' , ( NO. 894 , PLATE 116 ) . FROM THE DISTINCTIVE DESIGNS CARVED ON THE GRIP THEY ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN CARVED BY THE NEW ZEALAND MAORI . IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TRADERS AND WHALERS OFTEN TOOK ABOARD NATIVE LABOUR TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR CREW AND THESE CLUBS WERE MOST PROBABLY ORNAMENTED IN FIJI BY MAORI'S ON VISITING SHIPS .

THIS IS A VERY RARE EXAMPLE OF EARLY PACIFIC CROSS CULTURAL CRAFT , DESIGN AND INFLUENCE .