

Finch & C^o



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 TH 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 AMERICAS' , (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 TH 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 .