

Finch & C^o



AN INTERESTING ALEUT ESKIMO SPEAR THROWER IN WOOD AND MARINE IVORY . ALEUTIAN ISLANDS SOUTH WESTERN ALASKA

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19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 34 CMLONG , 7 CMWIDE – 13½ INS LONG , 2¾ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE ALEUT USED A THROWING STICK FOR ALL THEIR PROJECTILES . THE BONE PEG HOLDS THE END OF THE SPEAR THAT IS USED WHEN HUNTING SMALL GAME AND CERTAIN BIRDS AND FISH . AN ALEUT HUNTERS KIT WOULD CONTAIN NOT JUST ONE TYPE OF SPEAR OR HARPOON , BUT AS MANY AS A DOZEN EACH UNIQUELY EFFECTIVE IN CAPTURING A PARTICULAR TYPE OF MAMMAL , FISH OR BIRD . ARMED WITH SUPERIOR EQUIPMENT AND A THOROUGH KNOWLEDGE OF THE HABITS OF HIS PREY THE ALEUT HUNTER HARVESTED EVERY ANIMAL AND FISH RESOURCE THAT HIS BARREN ISLANDS HAD TO OFFER .

THIS BEAUTIFULLY FORMED FUNCTIONAL OBJECT CAN BE VIEWED AS A PIECE OF SCULPTURE IN THE FORM OF A WHALE OR FROM THE REVERSE AS A BIRDS HEAD .