

Finch & C^o



TWO NEW ZEALAND MAORI TROLLING LURE FISH HOOKS 'PA KAHAWAI'

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WOOD, PAVA SHELL, BONE AND TWISTED FLAX FIBRE

19TH CENTURY

SIZE : 14 CM HIGH – 5½ INS HIGH (EACH)

LITERATURE

CF FINCH AND CO CATALOGUE NO. 6 (ITEM NO.126) FOR ANOTHER MAORI HOOK

FISH PROVIDED AN IMPORTANT SOURCE OF FRESH FOOD FOR THE MAORI ESPECIALLY AFTER THE EXTINCTION OF THE MOA BIRD AS THERE WERE NO SIZABLE ANIMALS OF ANY KIND LEFT ON THE ISLANDS. CANNIBALISM WAS WIDESPREAD, BUT NOT FREQUENT, AND WAS USUALLY ACCOMPANIED BY CELEBRATIONS FOR A SUCCESSFUL MILITARY OPERATION. HOWEVER, MAORI EATING HABITS CHANGED AFTER THE EUROPEAN INTRODUCTION OF CATTLE, SHEEP AND PIGS AND THE ABANDONMENT OF 'ARUHE' IN FAVOUR OF THE IRISH POTATO.