

Finch & C^o



A RARE NEW CALEDONIAN HARDWOOD WAR CLUB WITH A NOTCHED MUSHROOM SHAPED HEAD

A RARE NEW CALEDONIAN HARDWOOD WAR CLUB WITH A NOTCHED MUSHROOM SHAPED HEAD AND INDIGENOUS ,
DISTINCTIVE , EXPANDED FLANGE AT THE BUTT .

LATE 18 TH – EARLY 19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 72.5 CMLONG , 11.5 CMDIA (HEAD) – 28½ INS LONG , 4½ INS DIA (HEAD)

LITERATURE

IN 1774 THIS ISLAND SO REMINDED CAPTAIN COOK OF SCOTLAND THAT HE NAMED IT NEW CALEDONIA . IT IS A STRANGE
AND CURIOUS LAND HAVING BROKEN AWAY FROM THE WESTERN TIP OF PREHISTORIC AUSTRALIA . IT IS OUTSTANDINGLY
RICH IN UNIQUE SPECIES AND IT'S NATURAL FAUNA IS STILL RULED BY REPTILES , THE SOLE RESIDENT MAMMAL BEFORE
THE ARRIVAL OF MAN BEING THE FRUIT BAT OR FLYING FOX . IT'S TREES ARE PREHISTORIC REMNANTS OF WHAT ONCE
EXISTED 80 MILLION YEARS AGO .

MOST OF THE OBJECTS COOK BROUGHT BACK FROM NEW CALEDONIA THAT EXIST IN THE VOYAGE COLLECTIONS WERE
CLUBS . ALL NEW CALEDONIAN WAR CLUBS HAVE A HIGH NATURAL POLISH AND THIS VARNISH LIKE SHEEN WAS
ACHIEVED USING SHELLS AND QUARTZ FRAGMENTS TO RUB DOWN THE GRAIN OF THE WOOD , THEN SMOOTHED WITH A
PLANT RICH IN SILICIC ACID . LATER 19 TH AND EARLY 20 TH CENTURY CLUBS HAVE A CRUDER AND MORE EASILY MADE
FINISH ACHIEVED WITH GLASS SHARDS RATHER THAN WITH SHELLS .