Finch & Co



TWO MALAITA SOLOMON ISLANDS, MELANESIA MEN'S EAR STICKS

TWO MALAITA SOLOMON ISLANDS, MELANESIA MEN'S EAR STICKS
EARLY 20TH CENTURY
SIZE: 21CM LONG – 8¼ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE WOMEN OF THE EAST KWAIO HILL PEOPLE OF MALAITA IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS MAKE THESE EAR ORNAMENTS BY PLAITING VERY NARROW STRIPS OF YELLOW ORCHID VINE AND DYED RED COCONUT PALM TISSUE OVER A BASE OF CANE OR BAMBOO STICK. TRADED BY THE HILL PEOPLE TO THOSE OF THE COASTAL REGIONS, THEY WERE OFTEN THEN TRADED ON AGAIN TO THE OTHER ISLANDS IN THE SOLOMON GROUP. THEY WERE WORN BY MEN THROUGH THEIR PERFORATED EAR LOBES WHO ALSO WORE DECORATIVE HAIR COMBS PLAITED FROM THE SAME MATERIAL.