

Finch & C^o



A NEW CALEDONIAN, MELANESIAN, CARVED HARDWOOD 'PENIS' WAR CLUB 'BUAT'

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WITH NOTCHED ENGRAVING TO THE MUSHROOM SHAPED HEAD, LINEN FABRIC AND PLAITED COIR SINNET BOUND
AROUND THE SHAFT
EARLY 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 82.5CMLONG – 32½ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE HIGH NATURAL POLISH, AND VARNISH LIKE SHEEN SEEN ON THIS CLUB IS CHARACTERISTIC OF NEW CALEDONIAN WOODWORK. IT IS ACHIEVED USING QUARTZ FRAGMENTS TO RUB DOWN THE GRAIN OF THE WOOD AND THEN IS SMOOTHED WITH A PLANT RICH IN SILICIC ACID.

NAMED BY CAPTAIN COOK IN 1774 BECAUSE THE ISLANDS AND THEIR LANDSCAPE REMINDED HIM OF SCOTLAND, NEW CALEDONIA IS IN FACT ENCIRCLED BY BARRIER REEFS AND WARM SEAS.