

Finch & C^o



TWO MATANKOL PEOPLE ADMIRALTY ISLANDS BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO LIME GOURDS

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INCISED WITH GEOMETRIC MOTIFS, TOGETHER WITH TWO CARVED FIGURAL WOODEN LIME SPATULAS, ONE DECORATED
WITH SMALL GLASS TRADE BEADS

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE: 23CM HIGH AND 16CM HIGH – 9 INS HIGH AND 6½ INS HIGH (RESPECTIVELY)

35CMLONG AND 34 CMLONG – 13¾ INS LONG AND 13¼ INS LONG (SPATULAS)

LITERATURE

THE EXTREMELY POPULAR CUSTOM OF BETEL NUT CHEWING WAS PRACTISED IN MANY AREAS OF MELANESIA. THE BETEL MIXTURE WAS COMPOSED OF THE NUT OF THE ARECA PALM, THE FRUIT OR LEAVES OF THE BETEL PEPPER AND THE LIME PRODUCED BY BURNING CORAL OR SHELL. THE NUT WAS SOMETIMES POUNDED TO A POWDER. THE LIME WAS STORED IN CONTAINERS SUCH AS THESE FINE EXAMPLES AND TAKEN WITH THE SPATULA MADE OF WOOD, BONE OR SHELL.

THESE EXAMPLES ARE OF CARVED WOOD WITH FIGURATIVE FINIALS PROBABLY REPRESENTING ANCESTORS.