

Finch & C^o



NATIVE AMERICAN EASTERN PLAINS SIOUX BALL HEADED WOODEN CLUB

ANATIVE AMERICAN EASTERN PLAINS SIOUXBALL HEADED WOODEN CLUB

WITH HOLES FOR THE SUSPENSION OF FEATHERS

OLD SMOOTH DRY PATINA

CIRCA 1840 – 50

SIZE: 53CMLONG – 21 INS LONG

LITERATURE

PRIOR TO THE ARRIVAL OF EUROPEANS BALL HEADED CLUBS WERE COMMON TO THE TRIBES FROM THE EASTERN PLAINS ALL THE WAY TO THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD. SCULPTED FROM SOLID WOOD THESE CLUBS HAVE A RECURRING IMAGE OF A MONSTROUS BEAST GRIPPING THE STRIKING HEAD IN ITS JAWS, WHICH SUGGESTS ASSOCIATIONS WITH THE SPIRIT BEINGS OF THE UNDERWORLD. THEIR OWNERS TREATED THESE WAR CLUBS WITH GREAT REVERENCE AND EVEN THOUGH FIREARMS TENDED TO DOMINATE ARMED CONFLICT DURING THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, THE CLUB REMAINED AN INDIAN WEAPON OF CHOICE BECAUSE OF ITS SACRED CHARACTER AND THE GREATER HONOUR ASSOCIATED WITH HAND TO HAND COMBAT.