

Finch & C^o



LARGE PREHISTORIC STONE AGE LOWER PALEOLITHIC FLINT HAND AXE

A LARGE PREHISTORIC STONE AGE LOWER PALEOLITHIC FLINT HAND AXE

150 – 200,000 YEARS OLD

OLD SMOOTH GLASSY PATINA

SIZE: 19CM LONG, 10CM WIDE – 7½ INS LONG, 4 INS WIDE

SEE: FINCH AND CO CATALOGUE NO. 9, ITEM NO. 56, FOR A COLLECTION OF PALEOLITHIC FLINT TOOLS

THESE EARLY CORE TOOLS WERE MADE BY MEANS OF THE 'ABEVILLIAN' TECHNIQUE. THE SINUOUS WORKING EDGE AND THE DEEP FLAKE SCARS ARE ALL TYPICAL OF THESE ROUGHLY SHAPED HAND AXES WHICH WERE USED AS ALL-PURPOSE HAND HELD CUTTING AND CHOPPING TOOLS. THEY WERE PROBABLY HELD AGAINST THE PALM OF THE HAND WHICH WAS PROTECTED EITHER BY A PAD OF ANIMAL SKIN, A MASS OF RESIN OR BY BARK.

TWO HANDSOME PREHISTORIC STONE AGE UPPER PALEOLITHIC BIFACIAL LEAF SHAPED FLINT
BLADE TOOLS

OLD SMOOTH GLASSY PATINA

20,000 YEARS OLD

SIZE: 12.5CM LONG, 8CM WIDE – 5 INS LONG, 3 INS WIDE

9.5CM LONG, 4.5CM WIDE – 3¼ INS LONG, 1¾ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE EARLIER ABEVILLIAN HAND AXE WAS CLUMSY BECAUSE OF ITS THICK SECTION AND ALTHOUGH THE ABEVILLIAN TOOLMAKER HAD A MENTAL PICTURE OF THE REASONABLY EFFICIENT TOOL HE WANTED, HIS TECHNIQUE WAS TOO PRIMITIVE TO ALLOW HIM TO CONTROL THE SHAPE OF HIS IMPLEMENT IN ANY BUT A GENERAL WAY, WHEREAS THE 'KNAPPERS' OF THESE TWO FLINT BLADES KNEW HOW TO REMOVE VERY REGULAR FLAKES TO SHAPE THEIR TOOLS. THE MAJOR ADVANCE IN BIFACE MANUFACTURE WAS THE EARLIER DEVELOPMENT OF THE 'ACHEULIAN' TECHNIQUE WHEREBY LONG SHALLOW FLAKES WERE DETACHED FROM THE FLINT WITH BLOWS FROM A 'BATON' STRIKING VERY CLOSE TO THE TOOLS EDGE.

THESE LEAF SHAPED BLADES WERE PROBABLY USED AS PROJECTILE POINTS HAFTED TO WOODEN SHAFTS, BUT THEY WERE ALSO USED AS KNIVES PERHAPS SIMPLY HELD IN A PIECE OF LEATHER IN THE HAND.