Finch & Co



FIJIAN ROOTSTOCK CLUB 'VUNIKAU'

A HEAVY FIJIAN ROOTSTOCK CLUB 'VUNIKAU'
WITH A RECESSED CARVED SPERM WHALE IVORY INLAY TO THE BASE OF THE SHAFT
EARLY 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 110CM LONG – 43¼ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THESE CLUBS ARE MADE FROM THE BUTTRESS ROOTS OF AN UPROOTED SAPLING THAT HAS BEEN PLANTED AND DELIBERATELY AND CAREFULLY TRAINED TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED SHAPE. CLUBS WERE THE FIJIANS FAVOURITE WEAPON, WHO IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY LIVED IN A VIRTUALLY CONSTANT STATE OF WARFARE. A GREATER VARIETY OF CLUBS WERE MADE ON FIJI THAN IN MANY OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDS, BUT BY 1870 THE IRON AXE HAS ALMOST SUPERSEDED THE WOOD CLUB AS A FIGHTING WEAPON. THE HATCHET OR SPLITTING AXE HEAD BEING HAFTED ONTO LONG CLUB TYPE HANDLES.