Finch & Co



RARE NEW ZEALAND MAORI CARVED WOOD TWO HANDED CLUB 'TEWHATEWHA'

A RARE NEW ZEALAND MAORI CARVED WOOD TWO HANDED CLUB 'TEWHATEWHA'
THE TOP EDGE NOTCHED TO ACT AS A REMINDER OF WAR TRIUMPHS. TWO OLD HOLES FOR FEATHER ATTACHMENTS. A SLIVER OF OLD DAMAGE TO THE BLADE EDGE. A MAORI CONTINUOUS ROLLING SPIRAL CARVED TO THE TOP OF THE SHAFT AND A STYLISED 'TIKI' CARVED TOWARDS THE POINTED SHAFT'S END
FINE OLD SMOOTH AND LUSTROUS PATINA
EARLY 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 155CM LONG – 61 INS LONG

LITERATURE

THIS TYPE OF MAORI LONG HAND WEAPON IS A TWO HANDED CLUB WITH AN EXPANDED END AT THE BLADE AND WAS USED AS A SIGNALING DEVICE BY THE COMMANDER OF AN ARMY. THE EXPANDED SURFACE MAKING IT CLEARLY VISIBLE FROM AFAR. FEATHERS WERE ONCE ATTACHED ON THE LOWER SIDE OF THE AXE-SHAPED HEAD AND THE FEATHERS COULD BE MADE TO QUIVER IN THE WIND. THE CLUB WAS SWUNG LIKE A QUARTERSTAFF WITH THE STRIKING PART BEING THE STRAIGHT EDGE BEHIND THE FLAT SURFACE. THE MAORI 'TEWHATEWHA' IS NOT THEREFORE AN AXE; THE BLADE EXTENSION EXISTED TO PROVIDE EXTRA WEIGHT AND BALANCE AT THE END OF THE WEAPON.