Finch & Co



THREE IMPRESSIVE NEOLITHIC PREPARED FLINT BLADE CORES KNOWN AS 'MOTTE DE BEURRE'

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FROM ABILLY, LOIRE VALLEY, FRANCE. ONE INSCRIBED IN INK 'LA GUERCHE' (INDRE-ET-LOIRE DEPARTMENT)
NEOLITHIC STONE AGE, 8500 – 4500 BC
SIZE: 32CM HIGH – 12½ INS HIGH (MAX) – 27CM HIGH – 10½ INS HIGH (MIN)

LITERATURE

THESE FLINT BLADE CORES ARE UNMISTAKABLE FOR THEIR RICH BUTTER YELLOW COLOUR HENCE THE TERM 'MOTTE DE BEURRE'. LARGE FLINT KNIVES WERE STRUCK FROM THESE CORES KNOWN AS 'LIVRES DU BEURRE' AND CAN BE UP TO 12 INCHES LONG. DURING THE NEOLITHIC PERIOD FLINT MINES WERE DUG AT LE GRAND – PRESSIGNY IN THE SOUTHERN TOURAINE AND FROM HERE THE FLINT CORES WERE TRADED INTO SWITZERLAND AND BEYOND BEING USED AS A FORM OF CURRENCY.

THESE MASSIVE CORES OF FLINT ARE THUS BOTH BANKS, AND BLANKS FROM WHICH ALL THE MANY AND VARIOUS FLAKE TOOLS WERE STRUCK THAT WERE USED FOR SPEARS, DAGGERS, KNIVES, SCRAPERS AND SKINNING TOOLS. THE FLINT HAS BEEN SCULPTED WITH THE SHAPE OF THE TOOLS LAST FASHIONED FROM IT.