

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **NORTHWEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND NOOTKA, NUU-CHAH-NULTH WOODEN HALIBUT HOOK**

A NORTHWEST COAST VANCOUVER ISLAND NOOTKA, NUU-CHAH-NULTH WOODEN HALIBUT HOOK  
CARVED FROM A SINGLE BRANCHED PIECE OF HARD DENSE FIR OR SPRUCE KNOT WOOD. AN IRON BARB LASHED ON  
WITH FLATTENED CEDAR ROOT WITH THE OPPOSING FACES OF A BEAR AND A FISH CARVED TO EACH END  
SUPERB SMOOTH OLD RICH PATINA

CIRCA 1800

SIZE: 26.5CM HIGH, 14.5CM WIDE – 10½ INS HIGH, 5¾ INS WIDE

## **LITERATURE**

TODAY THE PEOPLES OF THE NORTHWEST COAST JOKINGLY CALL THEMSELVES 'FISH INDIANS' TO IMPRESS UPON  
DISAPPOINTED TOURISTS TO THE REGION WHO EXPECT TO FIND HOLLYWOOD STYLE 'FEATHER INDIANS' THE  
MAGNIFICENCE OF THE COASTAL PACIFIC CULTURES.

HISTORICALLY THE NOOTKA DIET WAS BASED ON DIFFERENT VARIETIES OF FISH, JUST AS THE ECONOMY WAS BASED ON  
FISHING AND THE HUNTING OF MARINE ANIMALS. AMONG THESE FISH WERE SALMON, HERRING AND THEIR ROE, VARIOUS  
COD SPECIES AND HALIBUT, WHICH GENERALLY WAS NOT AS POPULAR A FOOD AS SALMON SINCE ITS MEAT WAS LESS  
FIRM WITH LESS FAT.

HOOKS SUCH AS THIS WERE MADE TO CATCH ONLY HALIBUT OF A CERTAIN AGE, NEITHER YOUNG AND SMALL NOR OLD  
AND LARGE ENOUGH TO BE DIFFICULT TO HANDLE; HALIBUT, WHICH FREQUENTS THE SANDY BEDS OF THE DEEPER  
WATERS, CAN BE CAUGHT WEIGHING UP TO 200 KILOS. THUS SMALLER YOUNGER FISH WERE SPARED TO PERPETUATE  
THE REPRODUCTIVE STOCK PREVENTING THE DEPLETION OF THE RESOURCE.