

Finch & C^o



POLYNESIAN MARQUESAS ISLANDS CARVED WOOD FAN HANDLE

AN EASTERN POLYNESIAN MARQUESAS ISLANDS CARVED WOOD FAN HANDLE COMPOSED OF TWO TIKI FIGURES 'TAHI'
STANDING BACK TO BACK

MOUNTED ON A STAND WITH THE IMPRESSED SEAL MARK OF KICHIZO INAGAKI

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 8.5CM HIGH - 3¼ INS HIGH / 11CM HIGH - 4¼ IN HIGH (WITH STAND)

LITERATURE

MARQUESAN TIKI FIGURES WITH THEIR ENLARGED HEADS, BENT KNEES AND EXTENDED ARMS AND HANDS RESTING ON THEIR STOMACHS HAVE A COMMON ARTISTIC ANCESTRY WITH OTHER EASTERN POLYNESIAN SCULPTURAL TRADITIONS SUCH AS THOSE OF TAHITI AND EASTER ISLAND RAPA NUI. MARQUESAN FAN HANDLES OF THE 19TH CENTURY WERE ALWAYS ADORNED WITH TIKI'S. CARRIED BY WARRIORS 'TOA', BY RITUAL SHAMANIC SPECIALISTS 'TAU'A' AND BY INDIVIDUALS OF HIGH BIRTH AND STATUS, THEY FUNCTIONED AS SYMBOLS OF RANK. THEY WERE ARTFULLY DISPLAYED BY BOTH MARQUESAN MEN AND WOMEN ON IMPORTANT CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS.