Finch & Co

**OCEANIC MICRONESIAN MARSHALL ISLANDS COMPOSITE MOTHER OF PEARL FISH HOOK**

AN OCEANIC MICRONESIAN MARSHALL ISLANDS COMPOSITE MOTHER OF PEARL FISH HOOK USED AS CURRENCY AND FOR CATCHING BONITO

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 10.5CM HIGH, 3CM WIDE, 4.5CM DEEP - 4 INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE, 1¾ INS DEEP

AN OCEANIC MICRONESIAN MARSHALL ISLANDS COMPOSITE MOTHER OF PEARL FISH HOOK USED AS CURRENCY AND FOR CATCHING BONITO

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 10.5CM HIGH, 3CM WIDE, 4.5CM DEEP - 4 INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE, 1¾ INS DEEP

**LITERATURE**

THESE MARSHALL ISLANDS FISH HOOKS HAD A MONETARY VALUE AND WERE KNOWN AS 'JIBBON MONEY'. SCHNEIDER WRITING IN 1905 WITH REFERENCE TO POEHL STATES 'THIS IS…. THE ONLY KIND OF SHELL CURRENCY THAT FALLS INTO THE CATEGORY OF TRULY FUNCTIONAL MONEY RATHER THAN INTO THAT OF JEWELLERY CURRENCY' (MUSCHELGELD-STUDIEN, DRESDEN 1905.84:10) LAUTZ STATES THAT THEY WERE ESPECIALLY VALUABLE OBJECTS: 'BESIDES THE

MOTHER OF PEARL SHELL KITCHEN KNIVES ON PALAU AND YAP, THIS WAS UNDOUBTEDLY THE ONLY REAL CURRENCY IN MICRONESIA THAT WAS DERIVED FROM A UTILITARIAN OBJECT AND NOT A PIECE OF JEWELLERY. INDEED THIS 'CURRENCY FORM' WAS NOT ONLY USED FOR PAYMENT AND PURCHASE, BUT ALSO FOR CATCHING BONITO. THIS MOTHER OF PEARL FISH HOOK APPEARS TO BE THE ONLY ONE IN ALL OF OCEANIA THAT ALSO HAD A CURRENCY VALUE. ALL OTHER HOOKS WERE REALLY USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR FISHING AND NOT AS MONEY' (STEINREICH IN DER SÜDSE, KOLN 1999.85:193/194)