

Finch & C^o



A VERY FINE MAORI WHALEBONE 'KOTIATE PARAOA' OF EXCEPTIONAL SIZE
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SUPERB COLOUR AND PATINA THROUGH USE

WHALEBONE, SHELL

NEW ZEALAND MAORI

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 39.5CMLONG - 15½ INS LONG

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LITERATURE

WAR TO THE MAORI WAS A FORM OF SERIOUS SPORT CARRIED OUT UNDER FIRMLY ESTABLISHED RULES USING A LIMITED RANGE OF WEAPONS. THEIR CHOSEN WEAPONS REQUIRED A VERY HIGH DEGREE OF PHYSICAL FITNESS AND WERE ONLY EFFECTIVE IF USED WITH CONSIDERABLE DEXTERITY. WAR WAS REGARDED AS A CONTEST OF SKILL RATHER THAN A BLOODY FIGHT TO THE DEATH. THE PREPARATIONS FOR WAR WERE RITUALISED AND LASTED FAR LONGER THAN THE BATTLES THEMSELVES. INVOCATIONS TO THE GODS, STRICT OBSERVANCE OF ALL MEASURES NEEDED TO APPROPRIATE ALL THE EVIL INFLUENCES, THE COMPOSING OF INSULTING 'NGERI' TO BE CHANTED IN THE FACE OF THE ENEMY, COULD OCCUPY A WHOLE COMMUNITY FOR WEEKS.

PROVENANCE

EX LYON AND TURNBULL, EDINBURGH, 30 JUNE 2010 (ENTERED FROM A PRIVATE COLLECTION IN GLASGOW)

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION