Finch & Co



41 A triton shell trumpet 'Putona' from the Marquesas Islands

Size: Member

Cook mored that in the Manqueum Islands there were proper war leaders, "Toa' whose duty it was to lead the bustle in the name of the thirf. They wore particular insignia such as the shall of an enemy, which was long down over their back. The shell tempet was an increment used by three war leaders to call their men to ranks. Generally used as a significant journement is such also used by their to assumeme their arrival by cance, for the birth of a male heir and other ceremonial purposes. It was worn or carried with a band made of coconst cord or increducing.

The shell trumper was known in the Masquesas as the 'wife of the shark' and instruments such as this were 'Topu'.

A TRIRON SHELL TRUMPET 'PUTONA', FROM THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS

A TRITON SHELL TRUMPET 'PUTONA' FROM THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 34 CMLONG

LITERATURE

COOK NOTED THAT IN THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS THERE WERE PROPER WAR LEADERS, 'TOA' WHOSE DUTY IT WAS TO LEAD THE BATTLE IN THE NAME OF THE CHIEF. THEY WORE PARTICULAR INSIGNIA SUCH AS THE SKULL OF AN ENEMY, WHICH WAS HUNG DOWN OVER THEIR BACK. THE SHELL TRUMPET WAS AN INSTRUMENT USED BY THESE WAR LEADERS TO CALL THEIR MEN TO RANKS.

GENERALLY USED AS A SIGNALLING INSTRUMENT IT WAS ALSO USED BY CHIEFS TO ANNOUNCE THEIR ARRIVAL BY CANOE, FOR THE BIRTH OF A MALE HEIR AND OTHER CEREMAONIAL PURPOSES. IT WAS WORN OR CARRIED WITH A BAND OF COCONUT CORD OR BARKCLOTH.

THE SHELL TRUMPET WAS KNOWN IN THE MARQUESAS AS THE 'WIFE OF THE SHARK' AND INSTRUMENTS SUCH AS THIS WERE 'TAPU'.