

Finch & C^o



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CREAMY DEEP COLOUR AND PATINA THROUGH USE, WITH MOTTLED STAINING

WHALEBONE

NEW ZEALAND MAORI

LATE 18TH TO EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 48CMLONG - 19 INS LONG

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LITERATURE

WAR TO THE MAORI WAS REGARDED AS A RECREATION, CARRIED OUT UNDER FIRMLY ESTABLISHED RULES USING A RANGE OF WEAPONS. MAORI WARRIORS CONSEQUENTLY SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME GROOMING AND TRAINING FOR BATTLE. THEIR CHOSEN WEAPONS REQUIRED A VERY HIGH DEGREE OF PHYSICAL FITNESS AND WERE ONLY EFFECTIVE WHEN USED WITH GREAT DEXTERITY.

MADE FROM THE SPATULATE SECTION OF A WHALE'S JAW, THE BLADE IS KNOWN AS THE 'RAU', WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE MAORI TERM FOR CONQUEST 'RAUPATU', PRESUMABLY AS SO MANY SUCCESSFUL BATTLES WERE FOUGHT WITH THIS TYPE OF BLADE. USED AS A STRIKING WEAPON, THE DISTAL END OF THE CLUB WAS THRUST STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER DELIVERING A BLOW TO THE ENEMY'S TEMPLE, OR IF THEIR HAIR COULD BE GRASPED, THE 'PATU' COULD BE DRIVEN UP UNDER THE JAW OR RIBS.

PROVENANCE

EX PRIVATE BELGIAN COLLECTION, PURCHASED THROUGH ALEX ARTHUR

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION

SEE: 'THE MAORI COLLECTIONS OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM' DOROTA CZARKOWSKA STARZECKA, ROGER NEICH, MICK PRENDERGRAST; PLATE: 119 ILL. 712, 714, 716, 722, AND 724