



### **A Chuuk (Truk) Coral Food Pounder**

An extremely fine food pounder, or phou, powerfully carved of a single piece of massive and dense coral rock. The flattened, circular top of the pounder is decorated with four large, raised, equally spaced, pointed, nipples. These precious objects were used to pound breadfruit and taro into a form of pudding or mash which was the staple vegetal food of the micronesians islanders. Carved of prehistoric coral rock, as there were no lithic deposits on the atolls, these pounders were important wealth items and social identifiers. The extremely weathered patina is from exposure to wind-swept sand. These heirloom pounders were often buried with their female owners and have surfaced, over time through the erosion of the tombs at the seaward gravesite of the atoll. The balance and perfection of form and surface are exceptional here.

Chuuk Island (formerly known as Truk), Caroline Islands, Micronesia.

Coral rock with a weathered patina.

18th/19th century (possibly earlier).

17 x 12.5 Ø cm.

## **Literature:**

Ref.:

Rosenthal, David : LES PILONS DES ILES DU PACIFIC in TRIBAL ARTS, LE MONDE DE L'ART TRIBAL. N° 11, Année III, Automne-Hiver 1996.

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