



### **Fijian Priestly Spear**

A very rare, and early chiefly, or priestly, fighting spear called *saisai soni* armed with five prongs. The long, smooth points are carefully bound together onto the haft as a conical spread with a complex binding of thick braided coconut fiber rope or sinnet. Most of the *saisai soni* spears have only two, three or four points thus this rare example with five is most unusual.

Fiji, Polynesia.

Ironwood (*Casuarina equisetifolia*) and coconut fiber with a fine patina of age and use.

207 cm.

XIXth century or earlier.

### **Exhibitions**

CASSE-TÊTE : ARMES ET ARMEMENTS DE L'OCÉANIE. Exhibition catalogue, Gal. Meyer, Paris, 1989, N° 62.

CASSE-TÊTE II - Clubs & Weapons of Oceania. Exhibition catalogue, Gal. Meyer, Paris, 2022 for Parcours des Mondes, N° 67.

### **Literature:**

Pub.:

CASSE-TÊTE : ARMES ET ARMEMENTS DE L'OCÉANIE. Exhibition catalogue, Gal. Meyer, Paris, 1989, pages 42/43, N° 62.

CASSE-TÊTE II - Clubs & Weapons of Oceania. Exhibition catalogue, Gal. Meyer, Paris, 2022 for Parcours des Mondes, pages 198/199, N° 67.

See another example in the collection of James Hooper inv. N° 915 and one in the British Museum collection, photographed by Stephen Thompson (1830-1893) before 1872 as part of the collection formed by Henry Christy (1810-1865). See the drawing of a man standing with a very similar spear by Ernest Goupil in 1838.