

# Finch & C<sup>o</sup>

65 Mid-19th century North American Plains Indian, Lakota Sioux,  
wolfskin medicine bundle

*Quillwork and red felt decoration. Inscribed 'Sioux, wolfskin bag  
Circa 1850'*

75cm x 30cm

These small medicine bundles were for personal use often made up after a vision quest and with advice from Shaman, those considered specialists in the religious ethos of the tribe. The use of the entire skin to make this bag reflects the belief on the plains, and beyond, that symbolically the powers of the animal would be retained.  
The Pawnee had star bundles made up according to visions received from particular stars and several have been found to contain fossils or pyrites that were believed to be fragments of meteorites - visiting stars with messages from the heavens.



## A MID-19TH CENTURY NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN, LAKOTA SIOUX WOLFSKIN MEDICINE BAG

A FINE MID-19TH CENTURY NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN, LAKOTA SIOUX, WOLFSKIN MEDICINE BUNDLE  
QUILLWORK AND RED FELT DECORATION. INSCROBED 'SIOUX, WOLFSKIN BAG CRICA 1850'

### LITERATURE

THESE SMALL MEDICINE BUNDLES WERE FOR PERSONAL USE OFTEN MADE UP AFTER A VISION QUEST AND WITH ADVICE  
FROM SHAMAN,

THOSE CONSIDERED SPECIALISTS IN THE RELIGIOUS ETHOS OF THE TRIBE. THE USE OF THE ENTIRE SKIN TO MAKE THIS  
BAG REFLECTS THE BELIEF ON THE PLAINS, AND BEYOND, THAT SYMBOLICALLY THE POWERS OF THE ANIMAL WOULD BE  
RETAINED.

THE PAWNEE HAD STAR BUNDLES MADE UP ACCORDING TO VISIONS RECEIVED FROM PARTICULAR STARS AND SEVERAL  
HAVE BEEN FOUND TO CONTAIN FOSSILS OR PYRITES THAT WERE BELIEVED TO BE FRAGMENTS OF METEORITES -  
VISITING STARS WITH MESSAGES FROM THE HEAVENS.