

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



## TIBETAN DOUBLE SKULL HAND DRUM 'DAMARU'

TIBETAN DOUBLE SKULL HAND DRUM 'DAMARU' MADE OF TWO HUMAN SKULLS COVERED WITH LEOPARD SKIN WITH CLOTH STREAMERS , COWRIE SHELLS AND A PIECE OF SKIN .

AN OLD BROWN PAPER LABEL ATTACHED READING 'D?MMAR? DRUM FORMED OF TWO SKULLS USED BY LAMAS IN EXORCISMS – THE 'PARCHMENT' IS HUMAN SKIN AND THE 'TRIMMINGS' INCLUDES HUMAN HAIR , LEOPARD SKIN , COWRIES AND BELLS'

THEN IN ANOTHER HAND IS WRITTEN : 'THE SKULLS WERE BROUGHT FROM A BATTLEFIELD IN EASTERN ASSAM OR MANIPUR BY A BHOOTYA COOLIE AND MADE INTO A DUMMARU BY THE LAMA OF LOPCHU . THE TUFT OF HUMAN HAIR ATTACHED TO THIS , BUT NOW EATEN BY MOTHS WAS PLAID IN THREE STRANDS , WAS ABOUT FOURTEEN INCHES LONG , AND BLACK . THE LEOPARD'S SKIN HAD HAIR ON IT BEFORE MY ILLNESS BUT THE HAIR IS ALSO NOW DESTROYED

MD – LATE 19 TH CENTURY

## LITERATURE

EMBLEMS OF COSMIC VIBRATION , THESE BUDDHIST'S DOUBLE SKULL DRUMS ARE PLAYED BY A ROTARY FLIPPING MOVEMENT THAT MAKES THE TETHERED BEAD ALTERNATELY STRIKE EACH OF THE SKINS . IT'S TWO SIDES SYMBOLISE THE DUAL NATURE OF REALITY ; THE CONVENTIONALITY AND THAT OF THE ULTIMATE .