Finch & Co



A BIRCHBARK NATIVE SUB-ARCTIC INDIAN STORAGE BOX , OJIBWAY OR CREE

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LATE 19 TH CENTURY

LITERATURE

LIFE IN THE SUB-ARCTIC IN PRE-CONTACT TIMES WAS HEAVILY DEPENDENT UPON THE BARK OF THE WHITE BIRCH . IT WAS USED IN TRANSPORTATION , SHELTER , CARRYING AND STORING FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS . THE IMPORTANCE OF BIRCHBARK IN THE SUB-ARCTIC BOREAL FOREST COMPARES WITH THAT OF BUFFALO RAWHIDE IN THE PLAINS , AND THERE ARE SIMILARITIES IN THE FOLDED CONSTRUCTION OF CONTAINERS FROM BOTH MATERIALS . THIS STYLE OF BOX WAS PROBABLY INSPIRED BY EUROPEAN PROTOTYPES , BUT IT HAS BEEN CAREFULLY CRAFTED ACCORDING TO NATIVE PRACTICE . BIRCHBARK IS NOT ONLY WATERPROOF BUT ALSO FIRE RESISTANT . IT CAN BE STITCHED , ROLLED , BENT OR ENGRAVED , AND CONTAINERS , BOXES , MOOSECALLS , CANOES AND ROOF MATS WERE MADE FROM IT .