

Finch & C^o



TWO NORTH AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL TJURINGA OR SACRED BOARDS , WARDAMAN TRIBE . WOOD AND EARTH PIGMENTS

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19 TH – 20 TH CENTURY

SIZE : A 46 CM LONG , 7 CM WIDE – 18 INS LONG , 2¾ INS WIDE

B 39 CM LONG , 6.5 CM WIDE – 15¼ INS LONG , 2½ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

TJURINGA ARE THE MOST SACRED FORMS OF ABORIGINAL ART . THEY EMBODY THE TOTEMIC SPIRITS OF ITS OWNER , HIS ANCESTORS AND OF THE CREATOR SPIRITS . THEY WERE DISPLAYED AT INIATIONS BY ELDERS TO EXPLAIN TRADITIONS AND LEGENDS TO NOVICES AND KEPT CAREFULLY WRAPPED IN BARK IN SPECIAL STORE HOUSES WHEN NOT IN USE .

THE LINEAR INCISIONS ON THEIR SURFACES MOST PROBABLY REFER TO MYTHS , MAPS OF THE HEAVENS AND THE LANDSCAPE , PLANTS , ANIMALS AND THEIR TRACKS , BUT WITHOUT DIRECT INFORMATION FROM ITS ORIGINAL OWNER IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCURATELY INTERPRET .

TO QUOTE FREDERICK MCCARTHY (AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL DECORATIVE ART 1958 PAGE ; 29)

'CONCENTRIC CIRCLES USUALLY REPRESENT THE PRINCIPLE FEATURE OF THE MYTH PORTRAYED SUCH AS THE SPIRITUAL ANCESTOR , PLACES WHERE HE CAMPED , WENT INTO OR CAME OUT OF THE GROUND , DISTRIBUTED SPIRIT CHILDREN , WAGED BATTLE WITH AN ENEMY OR RIVAL AND SO ON . ON ONE TJURIGA THEY REPRESENT A FROG , ON OTHERS , A TREE , A WATERHOLE , OR OTHER TOTEM' .