Finch & Co



TWO WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CEREMONIAL CARVED WOODEN CHURINGA'S

TWO WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CEREMONIAL CARVED WOODEN CHURINGA'S
ENGRAVED WITH INCISED ANGULAR DESIGNS BY MEANS OF POSSUM TEETH
OLD DRY DARK PATINA
19TH CENTURY
SIZE : A 91.5 CM LONG, 6 CM WIDE – 36 INS LONG, 2¼ INS WIDE
B 61 CM LONG, 7 CM WIDE – 24 INS LONG, 2¾ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

MANY OF THE ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES OF THE ABORIGINES HAVE A RELIGIOUS OR MAGICAL BACKGROUND. CHURINGA'S ARE SACRED OBJECTS REPRESENTING THE ANCESTRAL AND INDIVIDUAL SPIRIT OF THEIR OWNER AND ARE MADE ESPECIALLY FOR USE DURING CEREMONIES. SOME ARE VERY ANCIENT AND HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION FOR AN UNKNOWN LENGTH OF TIME. MADE OF WOOD OR AN ELONGATED SLAB OF STONE THE SMALLEST KNOWN IS ONE INCH LONG AND THE LARGEST 17 FEET. WOMEN AND CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO SEE THEM AND WHEN NOT IN USE THEY ARE KEPT CAREFULLY WRAPPED IN BARK OR SKINS AND HIDDEN IN SACRED PLACES.