Finch & Co



A FINE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CHURINGA

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19TH CENTURY
SIZE : 82 CM LONG X 7.5 CM WIDE
32¼ INS LONG X 3 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

MANY OF THE ARTISTIC ACTIVITIES OF THE ABORIGINES HAVE A RELIGIOUS OR MAGICAL BACKGROUND. CHURINGA ARE VERY CAREFULLY AND PATIENTLY MADE WITH BEAUTIFUL, HIGHLY CONVENTIONALIZED DESIGNS ENGRAVED ON THEM. EACH TRIBE IS DIVIDED INTO TOTEMS RELATED TO PLANTS, ANIMALS OR OBJECTS AND THE LEGENDS AND RELATIONSHIP OF EACH TOTEMIC GROUP ARE RECORDED ON THE CHURINGA BY MEANS OF SYMBOLS. TO A TRIBAL ELDER WHO KNOWS THE LEGEND, THE CHURINGA WILL ENABLE HIM TO CORRECTLY AND ACCURATELY RECITE THE GROUP'S LEGEND.