Finch & Co



A FINE NORTHERN GRETA LAKES OJIBWA BANDOLEER BAG

A FINE NORTHERN GREAT LAKES OJIBWA (ANNISHINABE) BEADED BANDOLEER BAG
GLASS BEADS, TRADE CLOTH, CANVAS AND WOOL THREAD
CIRCA 1880
SIZE : 119.5 CM HIGH, 33 CM WIDE
47 INS HIGH, 13 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

IN THE AREA OF THE GREAT LAKES, PRE-CONTACT, ALL EMBROIDERED, TANNED ARTICLES WERE DECORATED IN QUILLWORK. WITH THE ADVENT OF THE FUR TRADE, THE INTRODUCTION OF GLASS BEADS REPLACED QUILLS AND WITH THIS TECHNICAL INNOVATION CAME NEW IDEAS IN DESIGN DRAWN IN PART FROM THE NATURALISTIC ART OF THE WHITE MAN.

THE OJIBWA MUST HAVE SEEN THE BANDOLEER BAGS OF THE FRENCH AND BRITISH SOLDIERS AND BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE ELABORATENESS OF THESE FUNCTIONAL CARTRIDGE BELT HOLDERS. THEY EXPERTLY TRANSFORMED THEM INTO A PART OF THEIR CEREMONIAL REGALIA, HEAVILY BEADED WITH SPOT STICH SEWING TO BEAUTIFUL EFFECT. WORN BY MEN AS APRONS THE BAGS WERE MADE BY WOMEN AND TOOK AS LONG AS A YEAR TO MAKE.