

Finch & C^o



A WATERCOLOUR ON PAPER OF A SOUTH AFRICAN XHOSA MAN SMOKING HIS PIPE
A WATERCOLOUR ON PAPER OF A SOUTH AFRICAN XHOSA MAN SMOKING HIS PIPE
LATE 19TH CENTURY
SIZE : 26.5 CM HIGH, 15 CM WIDE – 10½ INS HIGH, 6 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE CARVING OF PIPES AMONGST THE ZULU SPEAKING PEOPLES OF SOUTH AFRICA REPRESENTS AN ARTISTIC USE OF FORM WHICH IS NOT FOUND IN OTHER OBJECTS, DESPITE OTHER ARTEFACTS SUCH AS BEADWORK BEING OF EQUAL CULTURAL AND SOCIAL IMPORTANCE.

AMONGST SMOKERS PIPES WERE USED AS INDICATORS OF SOCIAL STATUS AND IN GENERAL MEN'S PIPES HAD BROADER BOWLS WHICH HELD MORE TOBACCO WHILST WOMEN'S PIPES HAD A SMALLER CAPACITY. SMOKING WAS AN IMPORTANT COMMUNAL ACTIVITY, AND A LIT PIPE WOULD BE SHARED WITHIN A GROUP WITH EACH MEMBER HAVING THEIR OWN REMOVABLE MOUTH PIECE.