Finch & Co



AN UNUSUAL SOUTH EASTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL 'WEET WEET' OR THROWING TOY

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WOOD AND PIGMENTS
LATE 19TH CENTURY
SIZE : 58.5 CM LONG – 23 INS LONG

LITERATURE

'WEET WEET' IS AN ABORIGINAL NAME FROM THE VICTORIA, NEW SOUTH WALES AREA OF AUSTRALIA FOR A THROWING TOY OR IMPLEMENT THAT CONSISTS OF A CIGAR SHAPED CLUB WHICH IS FASTENED AT ONE END TO A FLEXIBLE STICK. THE AREA OF VICTORIA HAD THREE DISTINCT LANGUAGE GROUPS AND SOME 37 MAJOR CLANS. THE RICH COUNTRYSIDE OF THIS AREA MEANT TRIBES KNEW NO REAL SCARCITY AND A FEATURE OF THEIR TRADITIONAL LIFE WAS THE CO-OPERATION THAT EXISTED BETWEEN COMMUNITIES WHICH EVEN EXTENDED TO HUNTING WITH SEVERAL NEIGHBOURING NATIONS.

IN THE LATE 1870'S A TRADE IN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL CURIOSITIES HAD DEVELOPED WITH SEVERAL RETAIL BUSINESSES SELLING ARTEFACTS SUCH AS THE SYDNEY BASED FIRM TOST AND ROHU WHICH IN 1904 CLAIMED TO HOLD THE LARGEST STOCK OF 'IMPLEMENTS AND CURIOSITIES FROM AUSTRALIA AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS'.