Finch & Co



AN UNUSUAL AND FINE NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN EASTERN CHEROKEE NORTH CAROLINA EFFIGY PIPE BOWL

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DARK GREY SHALE AND CATLINITE WITH LEAD INLAY OBTAINED FROM MOLTEN BULLETS

AN OLD RED EDGED LABEL HANDWRITTEN WITH 'CLAY CO. N.C' AND ANOTHER '4131'

CIRCA 1870-80

SIZE: 14 CM LONG, 7 CM HIGH – 5½ INS LONG, 2¾ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

TOBACCO WAS A SACRED MATERIAL TO BE USED IN MAKING REQUESTS TO THE SPIRIT WORLD. TOBACCO WOULD BE THROWN ONTO A FIRE BY A MAN FEARING A STORM, AND USED AS AN OFFERING TO FEATURES ON THE LANDSCAPE SUCH AS ROCKS AND WATERFALLS WHICH WERE CONSIDERED TO BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREAT SPIRIT. FROM THE MID 18TH CENTURY THE CHEROKEE IN NORTHERN CAROLINA PRODUCED LARGE NUMBERS OF STONE CARVED PIPE BOWLS DECORATED WITH VARIOUS ANIMAL AND HUMAN EFFIGIES. THESE NEARLY ALWAYS FACED THE SMOKER AND WERE USED IN MEDITATION OF A GUARDIAN SPIRIT.

THE CHEROKEE USED EFFIGY PIPES IN A RITUAL REFERRED TO AS THE BOOGER DANCE IN WHICH CARVED WOODEN MASKS ALSO PLAYED A ROLE. HOWEVER MOST OF THESE PIPES WERE MADE FOR TRADE, ORIGINALLY TO OTHER TRIBES SUCH AS THE DELAWARE, BUT BY THE MID 19TH CENTURY MANY WERE SOLD TO LOCAL STORE KEEPERS AND TO WHITE TOURISTS.