

Finch & C^o



A NATIVE AMERICAN PLAINS INDIAN ARAPAHO WOMAN'S BEADED AWL CASE

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HIDE, GLASS SEED BEADS, COTTON THREAD

CIRCA 1880 – 1890

SIZE: 19 CMLONG – 7½ INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE PLAINS INDIANS WERE NOMADIC EQUESTRIAN HUNTERS AND LIFE ON THE MOVE PROHIBITED HEAVY POSSESSIONS. MOST THINGS WERE STORED AND KEPT IN LIGHT-WEIGHT WATERPROOF AND DURABLE SKIN CONTAINERS. THE HIDES WERE READILY AVAILABLE FROM THE NUMEROUS ANIMALS HUNTED FOR FOOD AND WERE DECORATED BY INCISING, SCRAPING, PAINTING, QUILLING AND BEADING AND THE AWL WAS A NECESSITY TO PIECE AND PRICK HOLES IN THE HIDE.