

Finch & C^o



A NIAS PEOPLES, INDONESIAN CARVED WOOD SHIELD

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OLD SMOOTH PATINA WITH TRACES OF REDDISH PIGMENT TO THE SHAFT
19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 124.5 CM HIGH, 32 CM WIDE – 49 INS HIGH, 12½ INS WIDE
132 CM HIGH – 52 INS HIGH (INCLUDING STAND)

LITERATURE

NIAS IS THE BIGGEST OF 131 SMALLER ISLANDS THAT LIE OFF THE WESTERN COAST OF SUMATRA,
INDONESIA.

BEARING A RESEMBLANCE TO THE DAYAK SHIELDS OF BORNEO THESE WAR SHIELDS ARE USED BY THE
NIAS IN THE SOUTH OF THE ISLAND. THESE SHIELDS ARE ALSO USED BY YOUNG WARRIORS IN A WAR
DANCE AND A MANHOOD RITUAL THAT INVOLVES ACROBATICALLY LEAPING OVER THE EDGE OF TWO
METRE STONE TOWERS IN ORDER TO PROVE THEIR READINESS TO TAKE A WIFE.