

# Finch & C<sup>o</sup>



## **A NIAS PEOPLES, INDONESIAN CARVED WOOD SHIELD**

A NIAS PEOPLES, INDONESIAN CARVED WOOD SHIELD  
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.