Finch & Co



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.