

Finch & C^o



A PAIR OF NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN SOUTH DAKOTA SIOUX MAN'S BEADED MOCCASINS
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HIDE, GLASS SEED BEADS AND SINEW
CIRCA 1870
SIZE: 28 CMLONG – 11 INS LONG

LITERATURE

MOCCASIN IS AN ALGONGUIAN WORD THAT HAS BECOME A GENERIC DESIGNATION FOR VIRTUALLY ALL NATIVE AMERICAN FOOTWEAR MADE OF BUCKSKIN.

THE TRADITION OF CRAFTING MOCCASINS WAS PASSED DOWN THROUGH THE MATERNAL GENERATION AND WAS REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS A GIRL NEEDED TO ACQUIRE. THE PRODUCTION OF MOCCASINS WAS A TASK THAT ALSO REQUIRED CONSIDERABLE SKILL TO CUT BOTH UPPERS AND SOLE TO THE CORRECT SIZE AND THEN SEW WITH SINEW.

AFTER 1870 BEADWORK BECAME MORE INTRICATE AND VARIED WITH RECOGNIZABLE REGIONAL, TRIBAL AND RESERVATION STYLES. PLAINS BEADED DESIGNS TYPICALLY EVOLVED FROM SIMPLE TO COMPLEX. THE BOLD SIMPLE BLOCKS AND LINES OF COLOUR BEADED IN 1850 WERE VASTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE INTRICATE, INTENSELY COLOURED DESIGNS COVERING LARGE AREAS SEEN IN PIECES FROM 1890.