

Finch & C^o



A FINE SOUTH AFRICAN RHINOCEROS HORN AND PLAIED SILVER WIRE PRESTIGE CANE

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PROBABLY MADE FOR A COLONIAL ARMY OFFICER

LATE 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 81.5CMLONG – 32 INS LONG

LITERATURE

TOGETHER WITH ELEPHANT IVORY, RHINOCEROS HORN WAS KEPT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE TRIBAL ELITE IN PRE COLONIAL SOUTH AFRICA. MOST PIECES MADE OF RHINOCEROS HORN WERE REGARDED AS PRESTIGIOUS CHIEFLY OBJECTS. EVENTUALLY EXTENSIVE HUNTING OF BOTH THE BLACK AND WHITE RHINOCEROS GREATLY DIMINISHED THE AVAILABILITY OF THE HORN AND THE TRADITION OF CARVING ARTEFACTS CEASED IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY.