Finch & Co



AN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL HARDWOOD BROAD SHIELD

AN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL HARDWOOD BROAD SHIELD
OF CONCAVE SECTION, THE HANDLE BEING FORMED OF A BRANCH PROTRUDING THROUGH THE FRONT OF THE SHIELD.
THE DECORATIVE PATTERN WITH TRACES OF WHITE PIPE CLAY
DARLING RIVER REGION, NEW SOUTH WALES
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 81.5CM LONG, 14CM WIDE – 32 INS LONG, 5½ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

ABORIGINAL WORKS OF ART FROM THE SOUTH-EASTERN REGION OF AUSTRALIA, VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES ARE ALL HISTORICAL AS THE ABORIGINAL POPULATION OF THESE STATES NO LONGER EXISTS IN A TRIBAL STRUCTURE. THESE SHIELDS, USED FOR WARDING OFF SPEARS IN BATTLE, TEND TO BE CARVED IN HARDWOOD AND DEPEND FOR THEIR VISUAL EFFECTIVENESS ON ELEGANCE OF FORM IN RELATION TO THEIR SURFACE ORNAMENTATION. THIS SIMPLICITY OF SHAPE AND BEAUTIFULLY INTEGRATED COMBINATION OF STRUCTURE AND LINE THAT IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THESE SHIELDS EPITOMISES ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF ABORIGINAL ART.