

Finch & C^o



SOUTH AFRICAN ZULU WOVEN GRASS SPOON POUCH 'IZIMPONTSHI'

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DECORATED WITH GLASS BEADS

WITH LABEL ATTACHED READING: ' 'ISIMPONTSHI' A TRADITIONAL ZULU WOODEN SPOON HOLDER OBTAINED FROM A

KRAAL IN THE HLUHLUWE DISTRICT OF ZULULAND'

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE: 20CM HIGH, 11CM WIDE – 8 INS HIGH, 4¼ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

CLOTTED OR SOUR MILK CALLED 'AMASI' WAS A BASIC FOOD IN EVERY ZULU HOMESTEAD. CHILDREN ATE THE CURDS WITH THEIR HANDS, BUT ADULTS WOULD USE A PERSONAL CARVED WOODEN SPOON, WHICH WAS KEPT IN A WOVEN GRASS POUCH. THESE 'IZIMPONTSHI' WERE TRADITIONALLY GIVEN AS ENGAGEMENT GIFTS.