Finch & Co



SOUTH AFRICAN ZULU PEOPLES DOUBLE SNUFF CONTAINER

A FINE SOUTH AFRICAN ZULU PEOPLES DOUBLE SNUFF CONTAINER
COMPLETE WITH ORIGINAL STOPPERS WITH OLD PAPER LABEL INSCRIBED WITH NUMERALS
LATE 19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 22.5CM LONG – 8¾ INS LONG

LITERATURE

ZULU MEN AND WOMEN HAVE TAKEN SNUFF FOR AT LEAST THREE HUNDRED YEARS AND BOTH SNUFF CONTAINERS AND SPOONS ARE INCLUDED AMONG AN INDIVIDUALS MOST IMPORTANT PERSONAL ACCESSORIES.
VIRTUOSO WOODCARVINGS OF DOUBLE SNUFF RECEPTACLES ARE NOT UNKNOWN AMONGST THE ZULU BUT THEY ARE RARE. A SIMILAR EXAMPLE IN THE CHICAGO FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IS ALSO MADE FROM ONE PIECE OF WOOD CONSISTING OF TWO RECEPTACLES CONNECTED BY WOODEN LINKS. THE FORM RELATED TO THE SHELL OF THE FRUIT OF THE ONOCOBA SPINOSA TREE, WHICH WERE OFTEN USED BY THE ZULU AS NATURAL SNUFF CONTAINERS.