

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL HARDWOOD FIGHTING BOOMERANG**

A SOUTH EAST AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL HARDWOOD FIGHTING BOOMERANG ETCHED WITH SINUOUS LINES AND  
RUNNING CHEVRONS

MOUNTED WITH A COLONIAL SILVER PLAQUE INSCRIBED 'A PRESENT TO D. & MB. FROM AUSTRALIA'

OLD SMOOTH DARK BROWN PATINA

CIRCA 1870-90

SIZE: 67CM WIDE – 26½ INS WIDE

## **LITERATURE**

BOOMERANGS WERE BOTH HUNTING AND FIGHTING IMPLEMENTS AND WERE OFTEN ORNAMENTED WITH CARVED  
DESIGNS THAT WERE GOUGED OUT WITH A POSSUM TOOTH TOOL. WHEN EXAMINED CLOSELY THIS METHOD OF  
DECORATION GIVES A DISTINCTIVELY UNEVEN LINE.

THE MATERIAL CULTURE OF THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINE SEEMS ON FIRST CONSIDERATION, A LIMITED ONE COMPARED  
TO MANY OTHER INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, BUT ALTHOUGH SIMPLE IT WAS VERY VERSATILE, ECONOMICAL AND  
COMPLETELY SUSTAINABLE. THEIR TOOLS AND WEAPONS WERE MADE FROM NATURALLY OCCURRING WOODS, FLINTS  
AND STONES, AND THEIR FOOD AND WATER WAS OBTAINED FROM ANIMALS, BIRDS, FISH AND INSECTS. WATER WAS  
OFTEN THE MOST DIFFICULT COMMODITY TO OBTAIN AND THE ABORIGINES OF THE CENTRAL DESERT SOMETIMES  
RESORTED TO GETTING WATER FROM A FROG THAT WOULD FILL ITSELF WITH WATER AND THEN BURY ITSELF IN THE  
MUD. THEY THEN DUG IT OUT WITH THEIR DIGGING STICKS AND SQUEEZED IT DRY.