Finch & Co

ABORIGINAL WOOD SHIELD PROBABLY FROM THE WEST KIMBERLEY

A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL WOOD SHIELD PROBABLY FROM THE WEST KIMBERLEY COASTAL REGION
19TH CENTURY
SIZE: 80CM LONG, 13.5CM WIDE – 31½ INS LONG, 5¼ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THIS TYPE OF SHIELD CAREFULLY DECORATED TO THE FRONT AND BACK, WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN AN IMPORTANT TRADE ITEM WITH OTHER ABORIGINAL GROUPS IN THE KIMBERLEY REGION. WHEN COLLECTING FOR MACLEAY IN THIS AREA IN 1888, FROGGATT NOTED THAT 'SHIELDS ARE USED BY ONLY THE COAST TRIBES' AND THAT 'ABORIGINES LIVING AMONG THE RUGGED LIMESTONE RANGES DID NOT USE SHIELDS OR BOOMERANGS.'