

Finch & C^o



AMERICAN PLAINS LAKOTA SIOUX ONE HEADED DRUM

A NATIVE AMERICAN PLAINS LAKOTA SIOUX ONE HEADED DRUM DECORATED WITH A FADED SUNBURST DESIGN IN RED
BLACK YELLOW AND BLUE

THE THIN BUFFALO RAWHIDE STRETCHED AND PINNED WITH IRON TACKS TO A HOOPED WOOD FRAME

CIRCA 1870 – 1890

SIZE: APPROX: 30CM DIA. 8CM DEEP – 11¾ INS DIA, 3¼ INS DEEP

CF: A SIMILAR DRUM IN THE COLLECTION OF D.T. VERNON AT COLTER BAY VISITOR CENTRE, WYOMING, PUBLISHED IN
THE SPIRIT OF NATIVE AMERICA BY AL. WATERS, NO 959. 1989

LITERATURE

RICHLY DIVERSE, AMERICAN INDIAN MUSIC WAS UNIQUE IN ITS ALMOST EXCLUSIVE EMPHASIS ON SINGING ACCOMPANIED
SIMULTANEOUSLY BY THE PLAYING OF A DRUM. PLAINS INDIAN DRUMS WERE MADE WITH SINGLE OR DOUBLE HEADS
STRETCHED OVER HOOPS OR CYLINDERS AND BEATEN WITH HANDS, WANDS OR STICKS, USUALLY TO EMPHASISE THE
RHYTHM OF A PARTICULAR CEREMONY AND TO ACCOMPANY THE CHARACTERISTIC PLAINS STYLE OF A TENSE, NASAL
QUALITY OF SONG.

MUSIC WAS INTEGRAL TO NATIVE AMERICAN LIFE ON THE PLAINS WHERE IT WAS PERFORMED EVERYDAY, IN PUBLIC OR
PRIVATE CONTEXTS, TO PRESERVE AND PERPETUATE TRADITIONAL CULTURE, TO EXPRESS AND AFFIRM TRIBAL
IDENTITIES AND TO HONOUR FAMILIES AND THE ANCESTORS.

EARLY EUROPEAN EXPLORERS AND MISSIONARIES WERE FASCINATED BY NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC DESCRIBING IT IN
THEIR JOURNALS AS HAVING A CONNECTION TO THE SPIRITUAL REALM. INDEED, SACRED INDIAN NARRATIVES TEACH
THAT MUSIC IS NOT A HUMAN INVENTION, BUT WAS FIRST GIVEN TO THE PEOPLE BY SPIRIT BEINGS IN ORDER TO
FACILITATE INTERACTION BETWEEN THEM.