Finch & Co



WESTERN PAPUA NEW GUINEA KIWAI MAN'S PUBIC SHIELD 'YADERE-ERE'

A FINE LARGE WESTERN PAPUA NEW GUINEA KIWAI MAN'S PUBIC SHIELD 'YADERE-ERE' OF BAILER SHELL WITH ORIGINAL WOVEN FIBRE BINDING

LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE: 26.5CM HIGH, 18.5CM WIDE – 10½ INS HIGH, 7¼ INS WIDE

35CM HIGH – 13¾ INS HIGH (WITH STAND)

LITERATURE

MEN OF THE PEOPLES LIVING AROUND THE MUDDY ESTUARINE WATERS OF THE WESTERN SHORES OF THE GULF OF PAPUA FROM GOARIBARI ISLAND TO THE MOUTH OF THE FLY RIVER, AND FURTHER INTO THE ISLANDS OF THE TORRES STRAIT, WORE THESE PUBIC SHIELDS CUT FROM THE LARGE CURVE OF THE 'HELO' OR BAILER SHELL. THEY WOULD WEAR THEM DURING RAIDS AND IN WARFARE WITH THE NEIGHBOURING TRIBES, AND ALSO WHEN DANCING WAS REQUIRED ON CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS.