

Finch & C^o



AFRICAN KALAHARI BUSHMEN RATTLE

A SOUTHERN AFRICAN KALAHARI BUSHMEN RATTLE MADE FROM THE SHELL OF A LEOPARD TORTOISE WITH THREE GIRAFFE BONE CLAPPERS

LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE: 16CM HIGH, 10.5CM WIDE, 7.5CM DEEP – 6¼ INS HIGH, 4¼ INS WIDE, 3 INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE KALAHARI BUSHMEN ARE THE ONLY PEOPLE IN THE WHOLE OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT TO MAINTAIN THEMSELVES EXCLUSIVELY BY HUNTING AND GATHERING. THEY ARE NOW CONFINED TO THE KALAHARI DESERT, BUT ONCE OCCUPIED A TERRITORY EXTENDING FROM SOUTHERN ZIMBABWE TO THE CAPE AND EAST TO NATAL. THEY WERE CONFINED TO THEIR ARID DESERT HABITAT FIRSTLY BY HOTTENTOT PASTORALISTS AND THEN BY THE BOER FARMERS WHO OVER GREAT TRACTS EXTERMINATED THE BUSHMEN BY THE USE OF ORGANISED COMMANDO RAIDS. EVEN THOUGH IN THEIR RESTRICTED TERRITORIES THEY HAVE BEEN COMPELLED TO ADAPT TO EXTREME ARIDITY AS WELL AS BEING SUBJECTED TO THE EFFECTS OF CULTURE CONTACT, THE BUSHMEN STILL PRESERVE A WAY OF LIFE COMPARABLE IN MANY RESPECTS WITH THAT OF THEIR STONE AGE ANCESTORS.