

Finch & C^o



WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL 'WUNDA' SHIELD

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A WESTERN AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL 'WUNDA' SHIELD THE CARVED HARDWOOD WITH FLUTED ABSTRACT ZIG ZAG MOTIF DIVDED INTO THREE SECTIONS EACH GROOVE PAINTED ALTERNATELY WITH RED AND WHITE PIGMENT THE REVERSE WITH A LOOP HANDLE

TRACES OF RED OCHRE ON A FLUTED ADZED DESIGN

AREAS OF A SHINY PATINA ON HANDLE OTHERWISE AN OLD DRY DUSTY SURFACE OVERALL

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 71.5CMLONG, 16.5CMWIDE, 4CMDEEP - 28¼ INS LONG, 6½ INS WIDE, 1½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THE NARROW HARDWOOD SHIELDS OF LONG ELLIPTICAL FORM IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA WERE USED FOR PARRYING SPEARS AND OTHER WEAPONS THROWN BY AN ENEMY OR RIVAL, AND ALSO FOR BLOCKING INJURY DURING CLOSE COMBAT. 'WUNDA' ARE DECORATED WITH ZIG ZAG LINES DERIVED FROM THE FORM OF A SNAKE IN THE DESERT SAND. ABORIGINES APPRECIATE PERSONAL SKILL AND ARTEFACTS MADE BY A CRAFTSMEN RENOWNED FOR HIS ART ARE

EAGERLY SOUGHT AFTER. A SHIELD OR WEAPON THAT HAS WON MANY FIGHTS IS PASSED ON FROM GROUP TO GROUP ILLUSTRATING THE IMPETUS GIVEN TO INTER-TRIBAL TRADE BY THE DESIRE TO BENEFIT FROM THE EMBODIMENT OF SUPERNATURAL POWERS OR THE QUALITIES INCORPORATED INTO THE OBJECT BY A SKILFUL WARRIOR, HUNTER OR FISHERMEN, AND WHICH WILL THEREFORE IMPROVE THE SKILL OF THE PERSON RECEIVING AND USING THEM.