



A Celebes Kanta Shield



2 800 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood

Length : 115cm

Diameter : 13

Depth : 14

Description

The "Kanta" is a rare type of war shield used in Celebes, in the Gulf of Tomini region. It is rather uncertain which exact indigenous tribe specifically used this type of shield. But ancient documentation and literature tells us that it was used by the Toraja, Topebato and Kulawi peoples. The shield was covered with nassa shells and pieces of mother-of-pearl or bone. The "Kanta" is a rather long and thin shield with a V-shaped front. The shield tapers towards the lower and upper ends and is decorated with triangles inlaid with bones and nassa shells. The front features overlapping tufts of goat hair and is dyed black, probably made with squid ink. It is made from a single piece of wood with a handle built into it. The shield is reinforced with twelve strips of rattan to prevent it from shattering when

Dealer

Antiques by the Sea

Fine Arms and Armour / Ethnographic Arts

Mobile : +31(0)617367512

Walstraat 81A

Vlissingen 4381

struck. Six at the lower end and six on the upper body of the shield. The reverse is smooth and undecorated.

Condition: Very good, no cracks or damage. Some bone inlaid triangles are professionally restored, goat hair and shells are completely original. An excellent example of a rare type of shield that disappeared during the 20th century.

Provenance: Dutch private collection.