



Kanta Shield, Sulawesi



3 000 EUR

Period : 19th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Painted wood

Length : 13.5cm

Height : 113.cm

Description

The "kanta" is a rare type of war shield used in Sulawesi, in the region of the Gulf of Tomini. It is unknown which indigenous tribe used it precisely. However, ancient documents and writings indicate that it was used by the Toraja, Topebato, and Kulawi peoples. The shield was covered with nassa shells and inlaid with mother-of-pearl or bone. The "kanta" is a fairly long and thin shield with a V-shaped front. It tapers towards the top and bottom and is decorated with triangles inlaid with bone and nassa shells. The front features overlapping tufts of goat hair and is dyed black, probably with cuttlefish ink. It is carved from a single piece of wood and has an integrated handle. The shield is reinforced with twelve rattan strips to prevent it from breaking upon impact: six at the base and

Dealer

Antiques by the Sea

Fine Arms and Armour / Ethnographic Arts

Mobile : +31(0)617367512

Walstraat 81A

Vlissingen 4381

six at the top. The reverse is smooth and plain.

Condition: Very good, without cracks or damage.

Some of the bone-inlaid triangles have been professionally restored; the goat hair and shells are entirely original. An excellent example of a rare type of shield that disappeared during the 20th century.