

SA716220

Pair of 19th century Mapuche carved wooden stirrups

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA716220****Date of manufacture: 19th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 25 cm (9.8")

Width = 24 cm (9.4")

Depth = 20 cm (7.9")

Description

A superb and rare pair of Mapuche stirrups, Chile, 19th century, carved wood with iron mounts. These large, heavy and elaborated Mapuche stirrups may have been used for rituals and ceremonies in which horses were adorned with rich and elaborate tack. Their general shape is inspired from Argentinian campana stirrups, themselves evolved from 18th-century European types. The carved geometric designs refer to Mapuche symbolism and cosmogony. The circle with the cross represents meli witran mapu (literally the land of the four places), the four parts of the world. The circles with a central dot, on the lower rim, may be representations of the sun or stars and the crown-shaped symbols may represent the head of Lukutuwe, or the First Man, as he appears on many Mapuche textiles. Hearts and leaf-shaped motifs are other traditional designs, while the four pointed mounts at each corner of the stirrup represent sacred spaces and communication with the deities. The Mapuches are Native people living on a territory mainly located in the south of Santiago del Chile and partially in Argentina. Mapuches were fierce warriors, never defeated by the Incas and then the Spaniards, and the M...

Seller Details

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