



Rare North American Child's Snowshoes. First Nation American.

Sold



REF: 27811

Height: 74 cm (29.1")

Width: 24.5 cm (9.6")

Depth: 2 cm (0.8")

Description

Vintage Wooden Huron Snowshoes.

An attractive and rare pair of juvenile tear drop snow shoes constructed from bent ash frames turned up at the toe, with stretchers and interlaced gut latticework. The First Nation American snow shoes are in great original condition with remains of gut boot ties. This shape is the best-known snowshoe style and is normally known as Huron or beaver tail. The Huron snowshoe origins can be traced back to the Huron people of Canada. There are remnants of red wool tassels (pompoms) indicating Native American origin. The snowshoe is designed for walking over snow and works by distributing the weight of the person over a larger area so that the person's foot does not sink completely into the snow, known as "flotation". The Huron snowshoe provides great flotation in soft snow and its streamlined tail helps maintain a straight trajectory.

Snowshoes were a common form of transport and sport amongst North American natives and were later taken up by settlers like fur trappers. Snow shoeing later became a weekend sporting activity that is still very popular in America and now also in the Alps.