

Iroquois Basket

ORIGINS:

Date: Post-1680

Place: Upstate New York between the Adirondack Mountains and Niagara Falls.

Materials: Black ash wood and unknown dye



Caption

Donated By: Unknown

DESCRIPTION

The Iroquois basket is an ash wood splint basket and has unique features such as markings. The markings are like slashes and there are some circles, with a reddish orange/black color on them. The basket appears to be extremely fragile. The width of one side with the top on was 23.9 centimeters. The width of the other side with the top on was 26.9 centimeters. The width of one side without the top was 23.6 centimeters. The width of the other side without the top was 25.1 centimeters.



The weight



The open Basetk



Lid of the basket

CULTURE

Description: The Iroquois peoples are original residents of the northeastern woodlands area in Upstate New York. They originally lived further to the south, and migrated north to the region before the arrival of Europeans. Many Iroquois people still live in New York today, or across the border in Canada (Ontario and Quebec) although other Iroquois groups were forced to move west to Oklahoma or Wisconsin during the 1800's, and their descendants still live there today. Most of the baskets that were made were work baskets, rather than purely decorative pieces.

The Iroquois people had been involved in a number of wars and battles with their neighbors. The Huron were the traditional enemy of the Iroquois. When the Huron became allies with the French in the 1600s, the Iroquois saw this as a threat. They raided, and they eventually wiped out the Huron people. Because of this alliance, they were also an enemy of the French. The Beaver Wars that started in 1609 involved the Iroquois fighting against the French and Huron over hunting grounds related to the fur trade. They also fought against the French and Algonquians during the later 18th century French Indian War. The Iroquois victory in this war changed the face of Indian warfare. The Iroquois eventually raided tribes as far south as South Carolina and as far west as Illinois. These victories by the five nations Iroquois eventually made English settlement of the interior of North America much easier. They eliminated key French allies and left large areas that had been densely populated almost deserted.



Caption: The basket

Use within Culture: It looks as if it can only hold lightweight objects. There is no handle on it so it is assumed when a person is carrying this object, they may hold it from the bottom. It also seems like this object cannot carry liquids because of the weep holes. Instead the basket may be used for storage or preparation for food.

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