



Shield

Date

late 19th to early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Amarro

Medium

Animal hide

Description

This particular style of shield is concurrent with multiple cultures including the Amarro of the Southwestern region and the Oromo of the Southern Central region. In order to make these shields, hide, often from the hippopotamus or buffalo, needed to be cut and mounted on a concave surface that was embedded with stones. The hide was pounded, stretched and oiled before being left to dry. While the Oromo had special shield craftsman (called chawa), it was likely that the Amarro obtained their shields through trade with peoples from the Lake Abaya

area and the Lowland Arssi peoples (a sub-group of the Oromo).

Dimensions

26 1/8 x 25 1/2 x 6 in. (66.4 x 64.8 x 15.2 cm)