



Shield

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Konso

Medium

Leather and paint

Description

The Konso from south-central Ethiopia share much in common with the Oromo and other regional groups. Known predominantly for their impressive terrace farming, not much is to be said of their warfare. What is known is that the only shield characteristically attributed

to them takes the form of a leaf. The hide shields are made in much the same molded method as other south-Ethiopian examples. They are placed on a mold as they are dried, creating complex shapes. Generally, these shields are made from a single piece of leather. As opposed to the darkening we often see in the leather shields of this area, Konso shields were instead bleached giving them their lighter color. We can also see the vague remnants of paint. These shields were used for wars and ceremonies.

Dimensions

41 × 16 1/2 × 6 in. (104.1 × 41.9 × 15.2 cm)