


JAG 2012-6-15  
Coiled snake staff  
S Nguni

2012.06.15	S.Nguni	coiled snake staff		12
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Accessioned	✓
Details (m'ments etc)	✓
Location assigned	✓
Photographed	✓ SAHRIS
Cat card made with pic	✓
Archive file made with pic	✓
Extra information	✓
STAR record	✓

**ARCHIVE FRONT COVER: TRADITIONAL OBJECTS**

<b>Artist name , sex:</b>  <b>Community:</b> South Nguni  <b>Sub-group:</b>  <b>Geographical location:</b> Kwa-Zulu Natal  <b>Date and place collected:</b>	<b>Acc no:</b> JAG2012-6-15  <b>b/w:</b> <b>c/t:</b> <b>c/s:</b> <b>dig:</b> SAHRIS
<b>Object type:</b> Coiled snake staff  <b>Vernacular:</b>	<b>Copyright:</b>
<b>Date:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> century	<b>Size: L:</b> 154,5cm <b>W:</b> <b>D:</b>
<b>Medium:</b> carved wood	<b>Location:</b> ██████████
<b>Purchase / Donation / Bequest Details:</b> purchased by AAJCT from NG Maritz, 112 Amersham Street, Lynnwood Manor, Pretoria, 0081  <i>Provenance: Jonathan Lowen, London</i>	
<b>Price Paid:</b> R43 460	
<b>Insurance Value:</b>	
<b>Authority:</b> AGC, 2012	
<b>Title Translation:</b>	
<b>Lengthy inscriptions / Original Labels:</b> Maritz number: 12	
<b>Subject:</b>	
<b>Catalogues:</b> Relics of War- A Collection of 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Artefacts from British South Africa and southern Rhodesia, Salut Africa (publ.), 2008	

**RE: Gifting of the Nicholas Maritz collection from the Anglo American Johannesburg Centenary Trust to the Johannesburg Art Gallery**

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17 April 2013

Parks Tau  
Executive Mayor  
City of Johannesburg

Dear Executive Mayor Tau

The Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG) hosts one of the most important international collections of historical (traditional) southern African art together with a collection of South African Contemporary art and International Historical works.

Acquisitions in the southern African field have been facilitated by the Anglo American Johannesburg Centenary Trust (AAJCT) since it was established in 1986 under the directorship of Christopher Till. Till introduced a radical change in JAG's collections policy. He shifted the focus from western-style art to southern African material that was previously held in ethnographic collections. This was the first time such material entered the collection of a major art museum, a development that has been seminal in the reassessment of art history in this country.

The AAJCT Fund enabled JAG's first acquisition of historical southern African art in 1987: the Jaques Collection of Tsonga headrests which were on the point of leaving the country. The previous year, through the generosity of Harry Oppenheimer, the highly important Brenthurst Collection of southern African art, assembled by Jonathan Lowen from sources in England and Europe, had been lodged on long-term loan at JAG. Oppenheimer's purchase of the collection had saved it from being lost to the country. Many further collections and objects have since been purchased using the AAJCT Fund, enabling the repatriation of items (such as the Udo Horstmann collection from Switzerland) and the retention in South Africa of rare heritage pieces. Publications and exhibitions around these collections, beginning with the ground-breaking exhibition of the Brenthurst Collection in 1991, have radically changed perceptions of the historical work produced in this region. The catalogue accompanying the Brenthurst Collection exhibition (Art and Ambiguity) created a new focus of academic and artistic interest within South Africa and abroad. Further JAG catalogues have made major contributions to the literature on the subject.

Interest in 19th and early 20<sup>th</sup> century southern African material began to spike internationally in the late 1990s when Lowen, who had amassed the items in the Brenthurst Collection, started putting in place a second collection of significant material from this period. The collection was offered to the market through the dealer Kevin Conru and was largely acquired by the South African collector Nicholas Maritz, who added strategic pieces. Some years later the collection was offered to JAG in its totality at an unaffordable price. Nicholas Maritz subsequently separated the collection into cultural divisions and, in negotiations, has significantly reduced the price of the Northern Nguni section which JAG considers the most important.

At a meeting held between the Art Gallery Committee(AGC) and members of the AAJCT, a decision was made to purchase the remaining Northern Nguni section for the collection of JAG. This has now given the JAG collection the reputation of leading this field internationally. The importance of this material cannot be overstated. The collection constitutes a national treasure and the AAJCT has now saved this heritage from being lost to South Africa.

As the Chairperson of the AAJCT I proudly hand over the Northern Nguni section of the Nicholas Maritz collection to the City of Johannesburg for the keeping and the care of JAG. My wish is that you embrace this gift and that we can celebrate the acquisition of this important part of history, through a celebratory ceremony shortly. I will keep you informed of such a function.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our heritage institutions,

Yours sincerely

**ARTS. CULTURE AND HERITAGE SERVICES**

ANNEXURE 1

**TRADITIONAL ART COLLECTION**

Artist	Title	Medium	Year	Price (R)
<b>Maritz Collection</b>				<b>4 000 000</b>

The Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG) has one of the most important international collections of historical (traditional) southern African art. The acquisition of the Nicholas Maritz collection would consolidate its leading international position.

Acquisitions in the southern African field have been facilitated by the Anglo American Johannesburg Centenary Trust (AAJCT) since it was established in 1986 under the directorship of Christopher Till. Till introduced a radical change in JAG's collections policy. He shifted the focus from western-style art to southern African material that was previously held in ethnographic collections. This was the first time such material entered the collection of a major art museum, a development that has been seminal in the reassessment of art history in this country.

The AAJCT Fund enabled JAG's first acquisition of historical southern African art in 1987: the Jaques Collection of Tsonga headrests which was on the point of leaving the country. The previous year, through the generosity of Harry Oppenheimer, the highly important Brenthurst Collection of southern African art, assembled by Jonathan Lowen from sources in England and Europe, had been lodged on long-term loan at JAG. Oppenheimer's purchase of the collection had saved it from being lost to the country. Many further collections and objects have since been purchased using the AAJCT Fund, enabling the repatriation of items (such as the Udo Horstmann collection from Switzerland) and the retention in South Africa of rare heritage pieces. Publications and exhibitions around these collections, beginning with the ground-breaking exhibition of the Brenthurst Collection in 1991, have radically changed perceptions of the historical work produced in this region. The catalogue accompanying the Brenthurst Collection exhibition (Art and Ambiguity) created a new focus of academic and artistic interest within South Africa and abroad. Further JAG catalogues have made major contributions to the literature on the subject.

Interest in 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century southern African material began to spike internationally in the late 1990s when Lowen, who had amassed the items in the Brenthurst Collection, started putting in place a second collection of significant material from this period. The collection was offered to the market through the dealer Kevin Conru and was largely acquired by the South African collector Nicholas Maritz, the current owner, who added strategic pieces. Some years later the collection was offered to JAG in its totality at an unaffordable price. Maritz subsequently separated the collection into cultural divisions and, in negotiations, has significantly reduced the price of the Northern Nguni section which JAG considers the most important. Its acquisition would augment the JAG collection significantly.

The negotiated price of the Maritz collection is R4 000 000. It may seem a considerable amount but in reality it is a fraction of what South African art commands on local and international markets. In the case of Irma Stern, for example, a painting sold by Strauss & Co in June 2012 fetched R17 267 000. In the opinion of the curators, independent experts and the JAG's Art

Gallery Committee, the asking price for the Maritz collection is reasonable. Furthermore, the acquisition is in line with the core focus of JAG's collections policy: to expand the historic southern African collection. It is unanimously recommended that the collection should be purchased, and we believe we have the funds to do so. By our calculations, with the backlog of interest accrued for acquisitions by the AAJCT Fund, we would be in a position to pay for half the collection in 2013 and to pay the second half in 2014. The importance of this material cannot be overstated. The collection constitutes a national treasure but unfortunately, with the lack of state interest or funding for this heritage, there is a risk that it will be lost to South Africa. The responsibility for keeping it in the country lies with the private sector and museums like JAG which have the support of the Oppenheimer family and the AAJCT Fund.

The purchase of the Maritz collection for JAG will make its holdings of such material the most significant in the world. In alliance with the Wits Art Museum collection and WAM's recently opened Centre for the Creative Arts in Africa, funded by the Mellon Foundation, Johannesburg would become the epicentre for the study of 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century material from the southern African region.

## ARTS. CULTURE AND HERITAGE SERVICES

ANNEXURE 2

## TRADITIONAL ART COLLECTION

## Maritz Collection

Price (R) 4 000

000

Maritz cat		Artist	Title	Medium	Year
No.	No.				
1.	9.	S.Nguni	twisted carved staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
2.	10.	S.Nguni	twisted carved staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
3.	11.	S.Nguni	coiled snake staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
4.	12.	S.Nguni	coiled snake staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
5.	13.	S.Nguni	coiled snake staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
6.	14.	S.Nguni	tall slender staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
7.	15.	S.Nguni	tall slender staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
8.	20.	S.Nguni	three legged pot. <i>Old label reads "Kaffir pot from South Africa"</i>	wood, hide, pokerwork	19 <sup>th</sup> C
9.	21.	S.Nguni	pipe with figurative bowl. <i>Old label reads "Galekan pipe"</i>	wood, metal	19 <sup>th</sup> C
10.	22.	S.Nguni	pipe with figurative bowl	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
11.	23.	S.Nguni	woman's pipe	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
12.	24.	S.Nguni	pipe with figurative bowl	wood, metal	19 <sup>th</sup> C
13.	33.	S.Nguni	woman's front apron	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
14.	39.	S.Nguni	fencing stick	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
15.	40.	S.Nguni	knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
16.	41.	S.Nguni	knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
17.	44.	N.Nguni	vessel with lid as drinking cup	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
18.	45.	N.Nguni	vessel with lid as drinking cup	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
19.	46.	N.Nguni	three legged vessel with lid	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
20.	47.	N.Nguni	vessel with lid	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
21.	48.	N.Nguni	vessel	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
22.	49.	N.Nguni	vessel	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
23.	51.	N.Nguni	milk pail	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
24.	52.	N.Nguni	milk pail	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
25.	53.	N.Nguni	milk pail	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
26.	54.	N.Nguni	food dish with lid	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
27.	55.	N.Nguni	food dish with lid	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
28.	56.	N.Nguni	meat platter	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
29.	57.	N.Nguni	meat platter	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C

30. 58.	N.Nguni	meat platter	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
31. 61.	N.Nguni	drinking cup	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
32. 64.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
33. 65.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
34. 66.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
35. 67.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
36. 68.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
37. 69.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
38. 70.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
39. 71.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
40. 72.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
41. 73.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
42. 75.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
43. 76.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
44. 77.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
45. 78.	N.Nguni	headrest	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
46. 79.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
47. 80.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
48. 81.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
49. 82.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
50. 83.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
51. 84.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
52. 85.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
53. 86.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
54. 87.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
55. 88.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
56. 89.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
57. 90.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
58. 91.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
59. 92.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
60. 93.	N.Nguni	figurative staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
61. 94.	N.Nguni	male and female carved figs	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
62. 95.	N.Nguni	carved female figure	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
63. 96.	N.Nguni	carved male figure	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
64. 97.	N.Nguni	carved seated male figure	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
65. 98.	N.Nguni	carved female figure	wood, glass beads	19 <sup>th</sup> C
66. 101.	N.Nguni	medicine spoon	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
67. 102.	N.Nguni	medicine spoon	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
68. 103.	N.Nguni	twist carved long stem spoon-staff with carved letters 'LTD'	wood, pokerwork	19 <sup>th</sup> C
69. 104.	N.Nguni	spoon owned by Laduma Madela	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
70. 105.	N.Nguni	spoon owned by Laduma Madela	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
71. 106.	N.Nguni	spoon owned by Laduma Madela	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
72. 107.	N.Nguni	spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
73. 108.	N.Nguni	spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
74. 109.	N.Nguni	spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
75. 110.	N.Nguni	spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
76. 111.	N.Nguni	spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
77. 112.	N.Nguni	spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
78. 113.	N.Nguni	spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C



79.	114.N.Nguni	spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
80.	115.N.Nguni	serving spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
81.	116.N.Nguni	serving spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
82.	117.N.Nguni	serving spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
83.	118.N.Nguni	serving spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
84.	119.N.Nguni	serving spoon	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
85.	124.N.Nguni	beer ladle	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
86.	125.N.Nguni	beer ladle	wood	19/20 <sup>th</sup> C
87.	128.N.Nguni	Staff with ovoid knob & carved breasts	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
88.	129.N.Nguni	Staff with ovoid knob Engraved "Zululand 1879"	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
89.	130.N.Nguni	Staff with ovoid knob	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
90.	131.N.Nguni	Staff with ovoid knob	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
91.	132.N.Nguni	Staff with ovoid knob	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
92.	133.N.Nguni	Staff with ovoid knob	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
93.	134.N.Nguni	Staff with ovoid knob	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
94.	135.N.Nguni	Staff with ovoid knob	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
95.	136.N.Nguni	Staff with cylindrical carved knob	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
96.	137.N.Nguni	Staff with cylindrical with carved knob	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
97.	138.N.Nguni	dancing staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
98.	139.N.Nguni	dancing staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
99.	141. N.Nguni	dancing staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
100.	144. N.Nguni	executioner's knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
101.	146. N.Nguni	executioner's knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
102.	147.N.Nguni	knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
103.	149.N.Nguni	knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
104.	150.N.Nguni	knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
105.	153.N.Nguni	knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
106.	154. N.Nguni	knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
107.	155.N.Nguni	knobkierie	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
108.	156.N.Nguni	tall staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
109.	157.N.Nguni	tall staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
110.	158. N.Nguni	tall staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
111.	159.N.Nguni	tall staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
112.	160.N.Nguni	tall staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
113.	161.N.Nguni	broad blade spear-staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
114.	162.N.Nguni	stabbing spear-staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
115.	163.N.Nguni	arrowhead, double-barbed spear-staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
116.	164.N.Nguni	arrowhead, double-barbed spear-staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
117.	165.N.Nguni	arrowhead, double-barbed spear-staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
118.	166.N.Nguni	battle formation staff	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
119.	240.N.Nguni	staff with snuff container	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
120.	241.N.Nguni	staff with snuff container	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
121.	242.N.Nguni	staff with snuff container	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
122.	243.N.Nguni	staff with snuff container	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
123.	244.N.Nguni	snuff container	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C
124.	251.N.Nguni	earplugs	wood	19 <sup>th</sup> C

## ITEMS TO BE DONATED

125	225. N.Nguni snuff container	wood	19 <sup>th</sup>
126	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
127	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
128	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
129	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
130	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
131	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
132	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
133	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
134	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
135	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
136	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
137	Ceramic pot	ceramic	
138	Grass basket	plant fibre	
139	Grass basket	plant fibre	
140	5 x wood and glass display cases		
141	Approx. 70 loose leaf etchings from the illustrated London News		
142	Approx. 35 volumes of the London Illustrated News.		

**N. G MARITZ**

**112 Amersham Street, Lynnwood Manor, Pretoria. 0081**

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BANKING PARTICULARS: ABSA ACC. NO. 3490 146 473 ABSA CODE 632 005**

**INVOICE**

**'Nguni Wooden Sculptures Collection' consisting of 124 lots of Nguni artifacts as listed below and illustrated in the catalogue: 'Relics of War' R 4 000 000**

**SOLD TO**

**Johannesburg Art Gallery**

**DATE**

**10 April 2013**

**TERMS**

- (i) The purchase price for the collection is R4 000 000, payable in two equal payments of R2 000 000 each.
- (ii) The first payment becomes due and payable on the date of this invoice, 10 April 2013.
- (iii) The second payment becomes due and payable on or before but not exceeding one calendar year after the date of the first payment.
- (iv) Possession of the entire collection will be given to the buyer on receipt of the first payment of R 2 000 000.

**Nguni Wooden Sculptures Collection**

<b><u>CATALOGUE #'s</u></b>	<b><u>LOTS</u></b>	<b><u>PRICES (R)</u></b>
09.	A TWIST CARVED STAFF South Nguni; 19 <sup>th</sup> century; wood; length: 134,5 cm	5 430
10.	A TWIST CARVED STAFF South Nguni; 19 <sup>th</sup> century; wood; length: 135,5 cm	5 430
11.	A COILED SNAKE STAFF South Nguni; 19 <sup>th</sup> century; wood; length: 109,2 cm Jonathan Lowen collection number: JL-C45	97 785
12.	A COILED SNAKE STAFF South Nguni; 19 <sup>th</sup> century; wood; length: 154,5 cm	43 460
13.	A COILED SNAKE STAFF South Nguni; 19 <sup>th</sup> century; wood; length: 159 cm	28 250
14.	A TALL SLENDER STAFF South Nguni; 19 <sup>th</sup> century; wood; length: 152,3 cm	1 090
15.	A TALL SLENDER STAFF South Nguni; 19 <sup>th</sup> century; wood; length: 150,5 cm	2 175
20.	A THREE LEGGED POT South Nguni; 19 <sup>th</sup> century; wood, pokerwork, carry handles, raw hide thong, old label: "Kaffir pot from South Africa," identification number: 146 23,5 x 14,8 x 16,7 cm	21 730

