

# PATRICK JEFFERSON



## EXTREMELY LARGE MARQUETRY PANEL DEPICTING A STYLISED MAP OF SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa *circa* 1940.

Height 57 $\frac{7}{8}$ " (147cm)

Width 98 $\frac{3}{4}$ " (251cm)

This huge marquetry panel, inlaid with numerous unidentified specimen woods, forms a romantically stylised map of South Africa reflecting the country's history, culture, and native fauna.

From the top, the banner originally inscribed 'Unie Van Suid-Afrika' has been changed to 'Republiek', presumably when South Africa gained independence in 1961. Below, each of South Africa's main cities is marked with a banner and an appropriate symbol. Port Elizabeth is represented by the Donkin Pyramid and Lighthouse; Kimberley pays tribute to its famous diamond mine with a huge, gleaming jewel; Pretoria and Cape Town are linked by the Blue Train, issuing swirling plumes of smoke; and Durban and Pretoria are represented by their city halls.

In the centre is a group of dancing figures, an homage to South Africa's Zulu people. The ankle rattles, oval Nguni shields held in the left hand, spears, and raised feet suggest they are dancing the Indlamu, a traditional celebratory dance. The beehive-style, thatched huts behind them are typical of the dwellings found in what was then called Zululand. Dotted amongst these are native animals, including a Merino sheep and a lion, both of which appear on the coat of arms of the Orange Free State, as well as a South African Ostrich, an elephant, a fish, an impala and a springbok. Interestingly, the springbok is placed within a shaped *cartouche* of a timber that does not appear elsewhere on the panel. This demarcation, combined with the area's proximity to Kimberley, suggests this boundary marks Basutoland, now called Lesotho, an independent country landlocked within South Africa.

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fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3