

Finch & C^o



AN INTERESTING TONGAN VESI WOOD HEADREST 'KALI HAHAPO'

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MD – LATE 19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 15 CM HIGH , 36 CM WIDE – 6 INS HIGH , 14¼ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THE ISLANDS OF FIJI AND TONGA HAVE BEEN TRADING FOR CENTURIES AND CONSEQUENTLY SHARE MUCH OF THEIR MATERIAL CULTURE .

THE DESIGN OF THIS HEADREST ALTHOUGH TONGAN IN STYLE WAS ALSO USED TO MAKE HEADRESTS OF FIJIAN HARDWOOD IN FIJI , POSSIBLY BY THE LEMAKI CANOE BUILDERS ESTABLISHED THERE BY THE TONGANS . ANOTHER SUGGESTION IS THAT THESE HEADRESTS WERE MADE IN THE LAU ISLANDS , WHICH ARE POLITICALLY FIJIAN AND CULTURALLY TONGAN , AND THIS WOULD EXPLAIN WHY THESE 'KALI' ARE FOUND AND USED IN ALL THREE LOCATIONS .