

Finch & C^o



SOUTHERN AFRICAN TSONGA WOOD HEADREST CARVED WITH AN INTERESTING COMBINATION OF GEOMETRIC FORMS . OLD DRY SHINY PATINA

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19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 15 CM HIGH , 14 CM WIDE – 6 INS HIGH , 5½ INS WIDE

LITERATURE

TSONGA NECK RESTS ARE THE MOST VARIED IN THE DESIGN OF THEIR SUPPORT STRUCTURES IN ALL SOUTHERN AFRICA . THE TERRITORY OF THE TSONGA PEOPLES EXTENDS ACROSS THE BOUNDARIES OF SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE , SOUTH EASTERN ZIMBABWE AND THE NORTH EASTERN TRANSVAAL COMPLICATING ANY STUDY OF THE REGIONAL STYLISTIC VARIATIONS OF THEIR HEADRESTS .

HEADRESTS WERE VERY PERSONALIZED SPIRITUAL OBJECTS THAT BECAME SO MUCH A PART OF THEIR OWNER THAT ON DEATH , IN MOST INSTANCES , IT WAS BURIED WITH THEM. IN SOME RARE INSTANCES IT WAS KEPT AS A COMMUNICATING VEHICLE THAT COULD PROVIDE CONTACT WITH THE ANCESTOR .