Finch & C°



81 A rare Enggano Island; Indonesia, wood sculpture in the form of a human head

Dask pating with painted eyes 19th CENTURY

Size: 17cm high x 9cm wide iled in white script "Webster B62/779"

Enginess band is sincertain their stope research to the Indiscension Archippelages, hi is surrowanded by a coral harrier reef of which many ships have here swretched. The art of the people of Engines is the only evidence to have solary of a culture that has disappeared. The art of the people of Engines is the only evidence to have solary of a culture that has disappeared. The art of the people of Engines is the only evidence by the caphere Ein Modifian who vinted the island in 1000, As well as extensorynaphic material be gathered by the caphere Ein Modifian who vinted the island in 1000, As well as endoscophic material be gathered by the caphere Ein Modifian who vinted the island in 1000, As well as endoscophic material be gathered by the caphere Ein Modifian vinter and cabox of the island structure of Natural History and were collected by the caphere Ein Modifian vinter and cabox of the island structure of the formation and the hereagen as a structure that had previously here materians. Where Ein Modifian vinter island by the boolily of the inhibitions had here as reduced by disease and social change that their will no approx entricles had here already endowed. The island were down and the control point of the rest of the form of the hense was decorated with a small burnan figure with arms contereched to symbolically support the floor of the hense was decorated with a small burnan figure with arms contereched to symbolic and wave of the hense was decorated with a small burnan figure with arms contereched to symbolic and wave produce and wave of the taw of the stand here the structure of the terms are the floor of the mass was decorated with a small burnan figure with arms contereched to symbolic and wave produce and wave of the structure here the phone of the structure here and has here detached from its lower pare; in flore to args and burnet the the adminution is to the readity wave of a structure of the indistructure to the indistructure to the bard. They would have severed the same propr

They would have served the same purpose of a potent trophy for the Enggano headbanter, as the pridisplayed heads of the energy had once done. It has been remarked that the art of Daggans bears similarities to that of Hawaii, New Zealand, and the Marquena Hahada, but so liftic anthopological research has been carried out in this area no one can so

ing with certainty. Perhaps the islanders' art was influenced by that on the shipwreeked boats that they ould raid once they had sunk

A RARE ENGGANO ISLAND, INDONESIA, WOOD SCULPTURE IN THE FORM OF A HUMAN HEAD HEAD

A RARE ENGGANO ISLAND . INDONSIA WOOD SCULPTURE IN THEFORM OF A HUMAN HEAD DARK PATINA WITH PAINTED EYES **19TH CENTURY** SIZE: 17 CM HIGH X9 CM WIDE

LITERATURE

ENGGANO ISLAND IS SITUATED SOUTH WEST OF SUMATRA IN THE INDONESIAN ARCHIPELAGO. IT IS SURROUNDED BY A CORAAL BARRIER REEF OFF WHICH MANY SHIPS HAVE BEEN WRECKED. THE ART OF THE PEOPLE OF ENGGANO IS THE ONLY EVIDENCE WE HAVE TODAY OF A CULTURE THAT HAS DISAPPEARED.

THE MAIN EXAMPLES OF ENGGANO ART ARE IN THE FLORENCE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY AND WERE COLLECTED. BY THE EXPLORER ELIO MODIGLIANI WHO VISITED THE ISLANDS IN 1891. AS WELL AS ETHNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL HE GATHERED INFORMATION ABOUT THE CUSTOMS AND CULTURE OF THE ISLANDERS AND ALSO STUDIED THE FAUNA OF WHICH HE BROUGHT BACK SPECIMENS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN UNKNOWN.

ENGGANO MEANING 'THE ISLAND OF NAKED PEOPLE' FIRST APPEARS ON 16TH CENTURY MAPS BY CORNELIUS DE JODE AFTER A VOYAGE BY A DUTCH NAVIGATOR IN THE SERVICE OF THE PORTUGUESE. IN 1596 ANOTHER NAVIGATOR WAS PREVENTED FROM LANDING ON THE ISLAND BY THE HOSTILITY OF THE INHABITANTS.

WHEN ELIO MODIGLIANI VISITED IN 1891 THE NUMBER OF INHABITANTS HAD BEEN SO REDUCED BY DISEASE AND SOCIAL CHANGE THAT THEIR WILL TO OPPOSE OUTSIDERS HAD BEEN ALMOST EBTIRELY ERODED.

THE ISLANDERS LIVED IN 'BEE HIVE' HOUSES THAT NO LONGER EXIST, AND THE CENTRAL POST JUST UNDER THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE WAS DECORATED WITH A SMALL HUMAN FIGURE WITH ARMS OUTSTRETCHED TO SYMBOLICALLY SUPPORT THE FLOOR. THESE, MODIGLIANA BELIEVED WERE WAR TROPHIES, CARVED IN IMITATION OF SLAIN ENEMIES.

WHOSE HEADS THEY HAD SEVERED.

THIS WOODEN HEAD HAS BEEN DETACHED FROM ITS LOWER PART: IN FACT SAWN OFF IN THE 19TH CENTURY. THERE ARE FOUR THAT WERE COLLECTED BY MODIGLIANI, AND NOW IN FLORENCE, THAT BEAR GREAT SIMILARITIES TO THIS

THEY WOULD HAVE SERVED THE SAME PURPOSE OF A POTENT TROPHY FOR THE ENGGANO HEADHUNTER, AS THE PROUDLY DISPLAYED HEADS OF THE ENEMY HAD ONCE DONE.

IT HAS BEEN REMARKED THAT THE ART OF ENGGANO BEARS SIMILARITIES TO THAT OF HAWAII, NEW ZEALAND, AND THE MARQUESAS ISLANDS, BUT SO LITTLE ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH HAS BEEN CARRIED CARRIED OUT IN THIS AREA NO ONE CAN SAY ANYTHING WITH CERTAINTY. PERHAPS THE ISLANDERS' ART WAS INFLUENCED BY THAT ON THE SHIPWRECKED BOATS THAT THEY WOULD RAID ONCE THEY HAD SUNK.