

# *Finch & C<sup>o</sup>*



## **A FINE SHONA / TSONGA , ZIMBABWE / MOZAMBIQUE CARVED WOOD HEADREST 'MUTSAGO'**

A FINE SHONA / TSONGA , ZIMBABWE / MOZAMBIQUE CARVED HEADREST 'MUTSAGO' OF ARCHITECTURAL FORM . FINE OLD  
PATINA

19 TH CENTURY

THE LUSTRE OF THE PATINA IS OBTAINED BY CONTINUOUS USE . THE WOOD BECOMING SATURATED WITH HAIR OILS ;  
THE HEADREST TAKES ON THE IDENTITY OF THE SLEEPER AND COMES TO BE SEEN AS THE INDIVIDUAL'S SPIRITUAL  
REPRESENTATIVE . HEADRESTS FROM THIS AREA WERE OFTEN BURIED WITH THEIR OWNER .

A DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF THESE HEADRESTS ARE THE VERTICAL LUGS EXTENDING FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE CROSS  
BAR WHICH IS DECORATED WITH SMALL CHEVRONS . THE LOBED BASE SUPPORTS A CARVED CENTRAL SUPPORT FROM  
WHICH RISE THREE UPRIGHT BEAMS . HEADRESTS FROM THIS AREA HAVE A GREAT INVENTIVENESS IN THE FORM AND  
VARIATION OF DESIGN OF THE CENTRAL SUPPORT , AND ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT MADE TO BE RADICALLY DIFFERENT  
FROM ONE ANOTHER IT IS THE SUBTLE VARIATIONS THAT DISTINGUISHES EACH REMARKABLE PIECE .

## **LITERATURE**

SEE : FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 4 ( ITEM NO. 108 AND 129 ) FOR COMPARISONS