

Finch & C°



A FINE DAN MASK , NORTHEAST LIBERIA AND IVORY COAST OF AFRICA

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19 TH / 20 TH CENTURY

THE DAN CALL MASKS 'GLE' OR 'GA' AND BELIEVE THEM TO BE MANIFESTATIONS OF WILD FOREST SPIRITS . THESE SPIRITS HAVE NO FORM , BUT WHEN THEY WISH TO USE THEIR POWERS TO SUPPORT MANKIND THEY MANIFEST THEMSELVES IN MAGICAL OBJECTS , LARGE RITUAL SPOONS OR MASKS . SPIRITS SELECT AN INDIVIDUAL TO IMPERSONATE THEM BY APPEARING IN THEIR DREAMS AND THEN INFORMS THEM OF THE REQUIRED TYPE OF MASK , IT'S NAME , ACCOUTREMENTS , MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT AND DANCE STEPS (FISHER 1996 ; 486 – 90) . THIS MASK KNOWN AS A BUGLE MASK WITH IT'S ORIGINAL FIBRE / HUMAN HAIR BEARD AND TUBULAR EYES HAS THE ATTRIBUTES OF A FEARSOME MALE SPIRIT AND WOULD HAVE ACCOMPANIED WARRIORS INTO BATTLE .