Finch & C°



AN EAST AFRICAN LOMWE / NGURU CARVED WOOD FIGURE

AN EAST AFRICAN LOMWE / NGURU CARVED WOOD FIGURE , NORTHERN MOZAVBIQUE , SOUTHERN MALAWI , WITH GLASS BEAD EYES . OLD SHINY PATINA LATE 19 TH CENTURY SIZE : 16.5 CM HIGH – 6½ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

PRIMARILY AGRICULTURALISTS THE LOMME PEOPLES, KNOWN ALSO AS NGURU, WERE FORCED TO MIGRATE INTO SOUTHERN MALAWI AND NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE FROM AN AREA FURTHER TO THE EAST BY THE FAMINE OF 1900. THEY HAVE SINCE INTERMIXED WITH MANY CLOSELY RELATED NEIGHBOURING GROUPS.

THIS FIGURE HAS A HOLE IN THE TOP OF HIS HEAD SUGGESTING A USE FOR SNUFF, AND FROM THE EVIDENT HANDLING AND PATINA ON THE FIGURE IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT IT WAS A STAFF FINIAL.