

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



**A FIJIAN BAMBOO HEADREST ( KALI NI BITU ) WITH PALM-WOOD FEET ATTACHED BY LENGTHS OF PLAIED SINNET**  
**A FIJIAN BAMBOO HEADREST ( KALI NI BITU ) WITH PALM-WOOD FEET ATTACHED BY LENGTHS OF PLAIED SINNET**  
**MD – LATE 19 TH CENTURY**  
**SIZE : 14 CM HIGH , 46 CM LONG – 5½ INS HIGH , 18 INS LONG**

## **LITERATURE**

IT IS SAID THAT FIJIAN HEADRESTS WERE USED TO PRESERVE THE COMPLEX AND COMPLICATED HAIRSTYLES OF MEN OF HIGH STATUS . HOWEVER IT IS KNOWN THAT 'KALI' WERE RESERVED FOR CHIEFLY USE AND THIS COULD RELATE TO THE MORE ORNATE COIFFURE AFFECTED BY CHIEFS , AS WELL AS THE 'MANA' OR SPIRITUAL POWER WHICH ALL POLYNESIANS BELIEVED SURROUNDED THE HEAD OF CHIEFLY PEOPLE LIKE AN AURA . THE CHIEFLY HEAD WAS THEREFORE 'TABU' AND MUST AT ALL COSTS BE KEPT OFF THE GROUND .