

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



## **A PRE COLUMBIAN COSTA RICAN CARVED STONE MACE HEAD**

A PRE COLUMBIAN COSTA RICAN CARVED STONE MACE HEAD , DEPICTING A STYLISED COYOTES HEAD

CIRCA 700 – 1000 AD

SIZE : 6 CM HIGH , 9 CM WIDE , 9.5 CM DEEP – 2¼ HIGH , 3½ INS WIDE , 3¾ INS DEEP

## **LITERATURE**

WHEN UNEARTHED IN CONTROLLED EXCAVATIONS THESE MACE HEADS ARE FOUND IN FUNERARY CONTEXTS WITH CARVED STONE 'METATES' , FLAT STONE MORTARS ( SEE : FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 4 ( ITEM NO. 9 ) FOR AN EXAMPLE ) , AND JADE AXE PENDANTS . THEY MARK ELITE BURIALS IN COSTA RICA AND WERE PROBABLY CEREMONIAL RATHER THAN FOR USE AS A WEAPON . THE VARIETY OF MOTIFS DEPICTED , INCLUDING SKULLS , OWLS , MONKEYS , BATS AND COYOTES MAY RELATE TO THEM BEING USED AS BADGES OF OFFICE , AND ALLUDING TO THE POWER ASSOCIATED WITH MILITARY PROWESS .