Finch & Co

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 A.D
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 .