Finch & Co



A WEST AFRICAN, NIGERIAN, IBO CARVED WOODEN STOOL

A WEST AFRICAN, NIGERIAN, IBO CARVED WOODEN STOOL
EARLY 20TH CENTURY
SIZE : 33 CM HIGH – 13 INS HIGH

LITERATURE

THESE STOOLS ARE DERIVED FROM AN IBO TRADITION IN WHICH HEAVY AND ELABORATE STOOLS WERE USED BY THE SENIOR MEN OF RANK AND OFTEN CARRIED BY THEM AT VILLAGE MEETINGS AS SYMBOLIC OF THEIR IMPORTANCE. STOOLS THROUGHOUT AFRICA ARE CONSIDERED EXTREMELY PERSONAL OBJECTS AS REPOSITORIES OF AN INDIVIDUAL'S SPIRITUAL BEING AND CANNOT BE USED FREELY BY OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS OR FRIENDS WITHOUT CAUSING SHOCK AND OFFENCE.

THE EARLIEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE UNEARTHED FOR STOOLS IN AFRICA IS FROM IGBO-UKWU IN SOUTH-EASTERN NIGERIA. IN THE BURIAL CHAMBER OF A PRIEST-KING THE CORPSE WAS FOUND TO HAVE BEEN SEATED ON A ROUND WOODEN STOOL DECORATED WITH TWO HORIZONTAL BANDS OF COPPER BOSSES. TRACES OF WOOD FROM THE STOOL DATE TO THE 9TH CENTURY A.D .