

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



## **AN UNUSUAL CARVED WOODEN ZULU, SOUTH AFRICAN HEADREST / STAFF**

AN UNUSUAL CARVED WOODEN ZULU, SOUTH AFRICAN HEADREST / STAFF  
WITH POKER WORK DECORATION

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE : 10 CM HIGH, 81 CMLONG, 9 CMDEEP – 4 INS HIGH, 32 INS LONG, 3½ INS DEEP

## **LITERATURE**

THE LEGS ON THIS HEADREST MIMIC THE SHAPE OF A COWS HORNS. AMONGST THE ZULU PEOPLES CATTLE ARE THOUGHT TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE LIVING AND THE DEAD, AND THUS AN INDIVIDUAL COULD HOPE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE PROTECTIVE ANCESTORS IN THEIR DREAMS WHILST ASLEEP ON THE HEADREST.

THE BLACK MIGRANT DIAMOND AND GOLD MINE WORKERS OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY WOULD USE THESE HEADRESTS CARRYING THEM BY THEIR BATON HANDLE AND RESTING THEM ON THEIR SHOULDERS AS THEY WALKED.