Finch & Co



TSONGA, SOUTH AFRICA WOODEN HEADREST

TSONGA , SOUTH AFRICA WOODEN HEADREST WITH FINE GLOSSY PATINA
LATE 19TH - EARLY 20TH CENTURY
SIZE : 20.5 CM WIDE X 14.5 CM HIGH X 9.5 CM DEEP

LITERATURE

THE REGION FROM WHICH THIS HEADREST DERIVES OVER-RUNS POLITICAL BORDERS AND INCLUDES SOUTH-EASTERN ZIMBABWE, SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE AND NORTH-EASTERN TRANSVAAL. DURING THE 19TH CENTURY A GREAT AMOUNT OF MIGRATION OCCURRED ACROSS THESE BORDERS MAKING IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO FIND A HARD AND FAST SINGLE ETHNIC ATTRIBUTION.
HOWEVER, A DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF THE HEADRESTS MADE BY THE TSONGA-SPEAKING PEOPLES OF THIS AREA IS THE CARVING OF A VERTICAL LUG ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CROSS BAR.
THE PATINA ON THESE HEADRESTS IS A NATURAL RESULT OF RUBBING THE WOOD THAT HAS BEEN IMBUED WITH HAIR OIL.