

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



## **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.