Finch & Co



A PAPUA NEW GUINEA, EAST SEPIK PROVINCE AMULETIC FIGURE

A PAPUA NEW GUINEA, EAST SEPIK PROVINCE AMULETIC FIGURE
PROBABLY MURIK PEOPLES
WOOD WITH TRACES OF RED PIGMENT
LATE 19TH CENTURY – EARLY 20TH CENTURY
SIZE: 16.5 CM HIGH, 3.5 CM WIDE, 4 CM DEEP – 6½ INS HIGH, 1¼ INS WIDE, 1½ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

USED BY MEN AS A MAGICAL HUNTING CHARM THIS FIGURE HAS A STYLISED ANIMAL SURMOUNTING THE ELONGATED HEAD, AND TWO SMALL PERFORATIONS TO THE SIDES OF THE FACE PROBABLY FOR ATTACHMENT. AMULETIC FIGURES WERE OWNED BY NEW GUINEA MEN IN ORDER THAT THEY COULD GAIN SUPERNATURAL ASSISTANCE IN HUNTING, FISHING, AND IN SEXUAL LIAISON.