Finch & Co



A FINE TSONGA, SOUTH AFRICA/MOZAMBIQUE, WOODEN HEADREST

A FINE TSONGA, SOUTH AFRICA/MOZAMBIQUE, WOODEN HEADREST

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE: 14CM, 13.5CM WIDE

LITERATURE

H.A. JUNOD, A SWISS MISSIONARY IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY OBSERVED THAT THE TSONGA USED HEADRESTS, AMONGST OTHER OBJECTS, TO ESTABLISH A BOND BETWEEN THE GODS AND THEMSELVES AS WORSHIPPERS 'IF AFTER THE DEATH OF HIS PARENTS THEIR SON SHOULD HAPPEN TO DREAM OF THEM, HE MUST OFFER WORSHIP TO THE DECEASED BY POURING SOME GROUND TOBACCO ON TO HIS WOODEN PILLOW, THIS BEING THE COMMENCEMENT OF HIS RELIGIOUS FUNCTIONS' (1927 2:411).

THIS EXAMPLE HAS A GOOD PATINA AND IS OF A BALANCED ABSTRACT DESIGN.