Finch & Co



AN AFRICAN IVORY COAST DAN OR 'WE' CARVED WOOD LOW CHAIR

AN AFRICAN IVORY COAST DAN OR 'WE' CARVED WOOD LOW CHAIR
OLD WORN SMOOTH PATINA
LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY
SIZE: 32CM HIGH – 12½ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

THE FORM OF THE EUROPEAN CHAIR SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A PARTICULAR IMPACT ON WEST AFRICAN TRIBAL CULTURE JUDGING FROM THE NUMBER OF VARIATIONS THAT EXIST AND THE CURVED BACK RAIL OF THIS EXAMPLE WAS MOST PROBABLY INSPIRED BY A EUROPEAN PROTOTYPE. IN AFRICA, STOOLS AND CHAIRS ARE OFTEN SIGNIFIERS OF STATUS BEING TREASURED BY THEIR OWNER AND RECOGNISED BY OTHERS NOT ONLY AS PRIVATE AND PERSONAL, BUT AS A PRESTIGE OBJECT AND INDICATION OF THE STATUS OF THE OWNER.

WHILST PRESIDENT OF THE COLLEGE OF WEST AFRICA IN MONROVIA, LIBERIA, FROM 1936 TO 1938, DR J.H. FURBAY COLLECTED A CHAIR, THAT IS NOW IN THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NEW YORK, WHICH HAS GREAT SIMILARITIES TO THE PRESENT EXAMPLE; (SIEBER PG. 161). HE REPORTED THAT THE CHAIR WAS ALWAYS CARRIED BY AN ATTENDANT WHO ACCOMPANIED THE CHIEF TO WHOM IT BELONGED, FOR IT WAS BELIEVED THAT A CHIEF WITHOUT HIS CHAIR WAS WITHOUT HIS DIGNITY.