Finch & Co



PAPUA NEW GUINEA, NORTH COAST, MANAM ISLAND, YASA VILLAGE CEREMONIAL CARVED WOOD MASK

A PAPUA NEW GUINEA, NORTH COAST, MANAM ISLAND, YASA VILLAGE CEREMONIAL CARVED WOOD MASK. OLD NUMBER TO REVERSE: H56

EARLY – MID 20TH CENTURY

SIZE: 26.5CM HIGH, 20CM WIDE, 13.5CM DEEP – 10½ INS HIGH, 8 INS WIDE, 5¼ INS DEEP

LITERATURE

THIS MASK WAS PURCHASED BY HALLINAN FROM THE 'KUKURAI' OR HEREDITARY CHIEFTAIN OF YASA VILLAGE ON MANAM ISLAND IN THE EARLY 1960'S. HE STATED THAT THIS TYPE OF MASK WAS MADE IN 3 VILLAGES: YASA, KAKULUMA AND BILIAU AND THAT IT WAS CALLED 'LAPUN' OR OLD MAN IN PIDGIN ENGLISH. WHEN IN USE THE WEARER OF THE MASK WAS MEANT TO FRIGHTEN THE PEOPLE WITH SPEARS PRIOR TO THE 'SINGSING' CELEBRATION.

MANAM ISLAND LIES JUST OFF THE RAMU ISLAND AREA COASTLINE AND ITS ART FORM IS RELATED TO THE RAMU STYLE. THE MASK IS MOST PROBABLY A REPRESENTATION OF AN IMPORTANT CLAN ANCESTOR.