

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



## **PAPUA NEW GUINEA EASTERN HIGHLANDS MENDI PEOPLES RITUAL 'DOLL' OR FIGURE**

A PAPUA NEW GUINEA EASTERN HIGHLANDS MENDI PEOPLES RITUAL 'DOLL' OR FIGURE

PLANT PASTE, FIBRE, SHELLS AND SEED BEADS

EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SIZE: 49.5CM HIGH, 13CM WIDE – 19½ INS HIGH, 5 INS WIDE

## **LITERATURE**

THE CONQUEST OF THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA HIGHLANDS WAS DRIVEN BY A THIRST FOR GOLD. IN THE 1930'S, BELIEVING IN THE PROMISE OF NEW GOLD DEPOSITS AN ADVENTURER CALLED MICHAEL LEAHY AND HIS BROTHERS ORGANISED SEVERAL EXPEDITIONS INTO MOUNTAINS THAT HAD NEVER BEEN PENETRATED BEFORE. WHEN THEY REACHED THE CENTRAL MOUNTAIN RANGE, TO THE SOUTH OF WHICH THE MENDI PEOPLE LIVE, IT WAS NOT COVERED IN IMPENETRABLE FOREST AS THEY HAD THOUGHT, BUT INHABITED VALLEYS THAT WERE FILLED WITH FLOURISHING FOOD CROPS.