Finch & Co



PAPUA NEW GUINEA CEREMONIAL MEN'S BLACK CASSOWARY FEATHER AND FIBRE HEADDRESSES

TWO PAPUA NEW GUINEA CEREMONIAL MEN'S BLACK CASSOWARY FEATHER AND FIBRE HEADDRESSES
SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS PROVINCE
EARLY 20TH CENTURY
SIZE: APPROX: 36CM LONG – 14 INS LONG (EACH)

LITERATURE

INTERTWINED FIBRE STRINGS FORM THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THIS HEADDRESS, WHICH WOULD ACCENTUATE AND FRAME THE FACE. BY WEARING SPECIAL ORNAMENTS MEN OF RANK WOULD DEMAND RECOGNITION OF THEIR STATUS. MANY OF THE OBJECTS USED IN SUCH SELF-DECORATION WERE ALSO VALUABLES USED IN EXCHANGE FESTIVALS. IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA MEN OF INFLUENCE IN THE VILLAGE WERE KNOWN AS 'BIG MEN'. THEY HAD ACQUIRED 'MANA' INFLUENCE AND RANK, THROUGH THEIR OWN ABILITIES AND HAD BECOME POWERFUL AND WEALTHY, ALERT TO ALL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.