

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



## **NORTHWEST COAST HAIDA INDIAN CARVED AND PAINTED CEDAR WOOD MODEL OF A TOTEM**

A NORTHWEST COAST HAIDA INDIAN CARVED AND PAINTED CEDAR WOOD MODEL OF A TOTEMPOLE DEPICTING A WINGED RAVEN AND CROUCHING BEAR

CIRCA 1890 – 1910

SIZE: 35CM HIGH, 26CM WIDE, 6.5CM DEEP – 13¾ INS HIGH, 10¼ INS WIDE, 2½ INS DEEP

## **LITERATURE**

ANIMAL SYMBOLISM PLAYED AN IMPORTANT PART IN NORTHWEST COAST ART AND ALMOST ALL THE CREATURES DEPICTED WERE SUBJECT TO A DEGREE OF ABSTRACTION WHEREBY CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS WERE RETAINED AND ACCENTUATED WHILST OTHERS WERE REDUCED OR OMITTED ALTOGETHER. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT THIS HELPED PORTRAY THEIR SUPERNATURAL NATURE AND FORCE ESPECIALLY ON OBJECTS OF RITUAL SIGNIFICANCE. NORTHWEST COAST INDIAN ARTEFACTS WERE FIRMLY ENTRENCHED IN A THRIVING AND COMPETITIVE COMMERCIAL MARKET BY THE EARLY 1880'S. MANY OF THE ESTABLISHED 'CURIO SHOPS', SUCH AS THOSE IN VICTORIA IN BRITISH COLUMBIA BEGAN TO SELL ALONGSIDE THEIR ANTIQUE ETHNOGRAPHICA, CRAFTWORKS MADE BY THE NORTHWEST COAST INDIANS SUCH AS MODEL CANOES, BOATS, HOUSES AND TOTEM POLES TO SATISFY AN INCREASING DEMAND BY VISITORS FOR SOUVENIRS.