Finch & Co



**SOUTH AMERICAN UPPER AMAZONIAN PERUVIAN SHIPIBO INDIAN POLYCHROME DECORATED TERRACOTTA STORAGE FERMENTATION JAR**

A VERY LARGE SOUTH AMERICAN UPPER AMAZONIAN PERUVIAN SHIPIBO INDIAN POLYCHROME DECORATED TERRACOTTA STORAGE FERMENTATION JAR
IN GOOD ORIGINAL CONDITION
2ND QUARTER 20TH CENTURY
SIZE: APPROX: 43CM HIGH, 17 INS HIGH – 71CM DIA., 28 INS DIA.

**LITERATURE**

THESE LARGE STORAGE VESSELS ARE CALLED 'CHOMO ANI' AND ARE SURVIVING EXAMPLES OF THE MOST COMPLEX PAINTED TERRACOTTA TRADITION IN THE SOUTH AMERINDIAN LOWLANDS. SHIPIBO POTTERY IS AT ONCE BOTH VERY PRIMITIVE AND HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED. IN A WORLD WHERE THE POTTERY WHEEL WAS UNKNOWN THESE JARS WERE MADE BY HAND BUILDING TECHNIQUES LIKE COILING AND WITH SIMPLE LOW FIRE TECHNOLOGY. IT WAS ALSO A MEDIUM THAT WAS ABLE TO RESIST THE DECAYING POWER OF THE AMAZONIAN JUNGLE.
THE POTS WERE USED FOR FERMENTING MANIOC BEER AND ARE SAID BY THE SHIPIBO TO HISS WITH THE BREATH OF VIPERS AS THEY PROVIDE THEIR BENEVOLENT 'STING' OF INTOXICATION.