

# *Finch & C°*



## **WESTERN CAMEROON GRASSLANDS KAKA CHIEFS HAT**

AN AFRICAN WESTERN CAMEROON GRASSLANDS KAKA CHIEFS HAT THE WOVEN COTTON CAP DECORATED WITH  
PROJECTING PORCUPINE QUILLS  
FIRST HALF 20TH CENTURY  
SIZE: APPROX: 47CMLONG – 18½INS LONG

## **LITERATURE**

AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY HAUSA TRADERS INTRODUCED THE HAND EMBROIDERED HAT TO THE GRASSLANDS OF THE CAMEROON'S AND THESE BEGAN TO REPLACE THE ELABORATE HAIRSTYLES ONCE WORN BY MEN THROUGHOUT THE AREA. INSTEAD OF REPRODUCING THE TUFTS OF HAIR WITH PROJECTING KNIT BURLS STIFFENED WITH TINY WOODEN INSERTS, THIS CAP IMITATES THE ORNAMENTAL HAIRSTYLE BY BEING EMBELLISHED WITH PORCUPINE QUILLS. THIS TYPE OF HEADGEAR DENOTES HIGH SOCIAL STATUS AND WAS PROBABLY WORN ON CEREMONIAL OCCASIONS.