Finch & Co



POLYNESIAN COOK ISLANDS CHIEFS STOOL 'NO' OANAGA'

A FINE POLYNESIAN COOK ISLANDS CHIEFS STOOL 'NO' OANAGA' THE THIN CURVED SEAT RESTING ON ROBUST LEGS TAPERING TO HEART SHAPED FEET

MID 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 16CM HIGH, 45CM WIDE, 20.5CM DEEP – 6¼ INS HIGH, 17¾ INS WIDE, 8 INS DEEP

LITERATURE

AN ELEGANT SYMBOL OF CHIEFLY STATUS THESE STOOLS IN EASTERN POLYNESIA WERE USED LIKE THRONES, THEY WERE SEATS OF AUTHORITY ONLY TO BE SAT UPON BY INDIVIDUALS OF THE HIGHEST STATUS. PRIOR TO EUROPEAN CONTACT POLYNESIAN HOUSES HAD FEW ITEMS OF FURNITURE AND SO ALL PEOPLE OF LESSER RANK SAT ON THE GROUND. SMALL AND EASILY PORTABLE THESE STOOLS WERE CARVED FROM A SINGLE PIECE OF WOOD, USUALLY A RICH DARK BROWN HARDWOOD CALLED 'TAMANU'.