

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



## **RARE SOUTH AFRICAN TSONGA/ ZULU CARVED EBONY PRESTIGE STAFF**

A RARE SOUTH AFRICAN TSONGA/ ZULU CARVED EBONY PRESTIGE STAFF DEPICTING AN IMPORTANT ELDER OR LEADER WEARING A HEAD-RING 'ISICOCO' HIS WAISTBAND NECK-RING AND EYES INLAID WITH BRASS STUDS HIS HANDS CARVED TO HIS SIDES ONE HOLDING A KNOBKERRIE RESTING SEATED ON A PILLAR HIS MOUTH OPEN TO CONVEY SPEECH

LATE 19TH – EARLY 20TH CENTURY

SOUTH AFRICA

SIZE: 108CMLONG - 42½ INS LONG

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## **LITERATURE**

IT WAS COMMON PRACTICE FOR THE CHIEFS AMONG THE TSONGA SPEAKING GROUPS AT THE END OF THE 19TH CENTURY TO COMMISSION LONG STAFFS SURMOUNTED BY MALE HEADS WEARING HEAD-RINGS AS THEY WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE VALUES OF WISDOM, AGE AND MATURITY RATHER THAN JUST MARITAL STATUS. THE ZULU ELDER'S 'ISICOCO' OR HEAD-RING CONSISTED OF A FIBRE OR SINEW CIRCLE INTO WHICH THE WEARER'S OWN HAIR WAS WOVEN AND THEN COVERED WITH A MIXTURE OF GUM, CHARCOAL AND OIL.

## **PROVENANCE**

EXPRIVATE COLLECTION

EXKEMN CONRU

EXPRIVATE COLLECTION