

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



**A FINELY CARVED 'BONI' NECK-REST**

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SUPERB DARK COLOUR AND PATINATION THROUGH EXTENDED USE

WOOD

SOMALIA

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 18.5CM HIGH, 15.5CM WIDE - 7¼ INS HIGH, 6 INS WIDE

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### **LITERATURE**

THESE HEADRESTS ARE USED BY NOMADIC SOMALI MEN AND WOMEN IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA AND NORTH-EASTERN KENYA. THE MALE TYPE, AS IN THIS FINE OLD EXAMPLE, HAVE A RELATIVELY SMALL BASE AND ARE THEREFORE UNSTABLE, MAKING DEEP UNDISTURBED SLEEP DIFFICULT, AND ENHANCING THE MEN'S VIGILANCE IN THE NIGHT. THE WOMEN'S TYPE HAVE A MORE STABLE BASE.

THE EXTENSIVE ISLAMIC INFLUENCE IN THE REGION IS REFLECTED IN THE GUILLOCHE PATTERNING CARVED ON THE SIDES OF THE HEADREST WHICH ENSURES GOD'S PROTECTION FOR THE SLEEPER.

### **PROVENANCE**

EX SUSAN MONTIEL-COLMENARES, LONDON, CIRCA 1970

EX PRIVATE COLLECTION

CF:

PIERRE LOOS, BAYET ET CALTAUX, 'LA TÊTE DANS LES ÉTOILES. APPUIS-NUQUE D'AFRIQUE ET D'AILLEURS', BRUNEAUF, 2012: PG. 101