

Finch & C^o



A FINE SHONA / TSONGA , ZIMBABWE / MOZAMBIQUE CARVED WOOD HEADREST 'MUTSAGO'

A FINE SHONA / TSONGA , ZIMBABWE / MOZAMBIQUE CARVED HEADREST 'MUTSAGO' OF ARCHITECTURAL FORM . FINE OLD
PATINA

19 TH CENTURY

THE LUSTRE OF THE PATINA IS OBTAINED BY CONTINUOUS USE . THE WOOD BECOMING SATURATED WITH HAIR OILS ;
THE HEADREST TAKES ON THE IDENTITY OF THE SLEEPER AND COMES TO BE SEEN AS THE INDIVIDUAL'S SPIRITUAL
REPRESENTATIVE . HEADRESTS FROM THIS AREA WERE OFTEN BURIED WITH THEIR OWNER .

A DISTINCTIVE FEATURE OF THESE HEADRESTS ARE THE VERTICAL LUGS EXTENDING FROM BOTH SIDES OF THE CROSS
BAR WHICH IS DECORATED WITH SMALL CHEVRONS . THE LOBED BASE SUPPORTS A CARVED CENTRAL SUPPORT FROM
WHICH RISE THREE UPRIGHT BEAMS . HEADRESTS FROM THIS AREA HAVE A GREAT INVENTIVENESS IN THE FORM AND
VARIATION OF DESIGN OF THE CENTRAL SUPPORT , AND ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NOT MADE TO BE RADICALLY DIFFERENT
FROM ONE ANOTHER IT IS THE SUBTLE VARIATIONS THAT DISTINGUISHES EACH REMARKABLE PIECE .

LITERATURE

SEE : FINCH & CO CATALOGUE NO. 4 (ITEM NO. 108 AND 129) FOR COMPARISONS