

Finch & C^o



AN UNUSUAL SOUTH EAST AFRICAN CARVED WOOD AND POKERWORK STAFF FINIAL

AN UNUSUAL SOUTH EAST AFRICAN CARVED WOOD AND POKERWORK STAFF FINIAL , DEPICTING A SEATED MALE CHIEF
IN A CONICAL HAT WEARING A NECKLACE . PROBABLY TSONGA PEOPLES , SOUTH AFRICA / MOZAMBIQUE / ZIMBABWE
BORDERS . OLD DRY SHINY PATINA
19 TH CENTURY
SIZE : 18 CM HIGH – 7 INS HIGH

LITERATURE

IT IS NOW THOUGHT THAT THE TSONGA MIGRATED TO NATAL FROM SOUTHERN MOZAMBIQUE AS EARLY AS THE 1850'S .
THEY WERE RENOWNED FOR THEIR WOOD CARVING AND WERE SOON PRODUCING ARTEFACTS OFTEN FOR SALE TO
EUROPEAN SETTLERS .

THE CONICAL HEADDRESS SEEN ON THIS FIGURE IS OCCASIONALLY CARVED ON TSONGA STAFFS WITH MALE FIGURES ,
BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER THEY ARE INTENDED TO DEPICT UNUSUAL HAIRSTYLES OR COLONIAL HATS , AS IT IS
ONLY USUAL FOR TSONGA MARRIED WOMEN TO HAVE A PEAKED COIFFURE DENOTING THEIR MATRIMONIAL STATUS . THIS
FIGURE IS SEATED ON A EUROPEAN STYLE CHAIR , AND OUTLINED IN POKER WORK , HE IS WEARING A CHIEF'S
NECKLACE .