

Finch & C^o



A SOUTHERN SOMALI DOUBLE COLUMN HEADREST

A SOUTHERN SOMALI DOUBLE COLUMN HEADREST . WOOD WITH INCISED DECORATION , FINE OLD GLOSSY PATINA
19 TH CENTURY

SIZE : 16.5 CM HIGH , 15 CM WIDE – 6½ INS HIGH , 6 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

THESE HEADRESTS ARE USED BY THE NOMADIC SOMALI IN SOUTHERN SOMALIA AND NORTH EASTERN KENYA . THEY ARE USED BY BOTH MEN AND WOMEN . 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 . WHILST THE EXAMPLES USED BY WOMEN 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 ENSURE GOD'S PROTECTION FOR THE SLEEPER .