

Finch & C^o



A RARE FIJIAN BAMBOO AND HARDWOOD DOUBLE HEADREST 'KALI NI BUTU'

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ETCHED WITH PICTORIAL DESIGNS. SUPERB OLD DRY PATINA WITH ORIGINAL SENIT
BINDING AND HARDWOOD LEGS

EARLY 19TH CENTURY

SIZE : 76 CMLONG, 18 CMDEEP, 14 CMHIGH – 30 INS LONG, 7 INS DEEP, 5½ INS HIGH

LITERATURE

IT IS SAID THAT 'KALI' WERE RESERVED FOR CHIEFLY USE. IT WAS PLACED UNDER THE NECK AT THE BASE OF THE SKULL RATHER THAN THE HEAD THUS PRESERVING ANY ORNATE AND COMPLICATED HAIRSTYLE. IF SLEEPING ON THE SIDE IT WOULD BE PLACED JUST ABOVE THE ANGLE OF THE JAW.
THE MORE ORNATE COIFFURE WAS OFTEN AFFECTED BY CHIEFS AND IT WAS BELIEVED THAT THE SPIRITUAL POWER OR 'MANA' OF THE CHIEF SURROUNDED HIS HEAD AND MADE IT 'TABU'. THUS NO ONE COULD TOUCH HIS HEAD AND THE GROUND WAS KEPT FROM IT BY THE HEADREST.