

Finch & C^o



WEST AFRICAN YORUBA ESHU CULT DANCE STAFF OR WRIST ORNAMENT

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OLD SMOOTH SILKY PATINA

LATE 19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 8.5CM HIGH – 3¼ INS HIGH

CF: AFRIKA MUSEUM BERGENDAL, NETHERLANDS NO. 488-5 AND NO. 631-2 FOR SIMILAR EXAMPLES

LITERATURE

DEVOTEES OF ESHU HAVE FIGURES SUCH AS THIS ATTACHED TO THEIR WRISTS WITH LEATHER THONGS WHILST DANCING AND DURING PROCESSIONS. REMAINS OF THE THONGS CAN STILL BE SEEN IN THIS EXAMPLE. THERE IS A DELIBERATE AND STRONG RESEMBLANCE TO YORUBA CHILDREN'S DOLLS SYMBOLISING THE BELIEF THAT ESHU CULT MEMBERS ARE SIMULTANEOUSLY BOTH CHILDREN AND ADULTS, JUST LIKE ESHU HIMSELF.