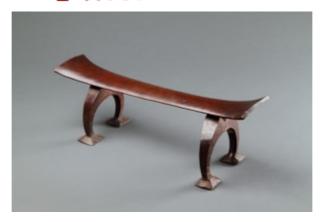
Finch & Co



FINE TONGAN VAVA'U ISLAND CARVED HARDWOOD HEADREST 'KALI LALONI'

A FINE TONGAN VAVA'U ISLAND CARVED HARDWOOD HEADREST 'KALI LALONI' OF CLASSIC FORM

19TH CENTURY

SIZE: 14CM HIGH, 44CM WIDE - 51/2 INS HIGH, 171/4 INS WIDE

LITERATURE

TONGAN HEADRESTS PROTECTED HAIRSTYLES AND PREVENTED THE HEAD, THE SEAT OF AN INDIMIDUAL'S SPIRITUAL FORCE OR 'MANA' FROM TOUCHING THE GROUND AND THEREBY BEING DEFILED. THEIR TRADITIONAL SIGNIFICANCE WAS NOT JUST LIMITED TO THEIR VALUE AS A HIGHLY DESIRABLE PERSONAL POSSESSION, THEY WERE ALSO USED AS IMPORTANT BARTERING OBJECTS IN CEREMONIAL EXCHANGES.