



Small Kava Dish ex Pitt Rivers

A fine, small oval priestly KAVA Bowl. The priest used this type of flat dish to drink kava from prior to going into trance and communicate with the ancestors. The underside is carved with a very fine double lug from which the bowl would have been suspended on the wall by a sennit loop when not in use. When seen from the underside with the lug at the top there is a remarkable resemblance to a stylized Flying Fox, the ubiquitous giant fruit bat found throughout the western Pacific. Fiji Islands, Polynesia. 40 x 19.2 x 6 cm. Wood. 18th/19th century.

Literature:

Ref. : Clunie, Fergus: YALO i VITI. Fiji Museum, Suva. 1986. Ewins, Rod: FIJIAN ARTIFACTS, TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY COLLECTION. Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, Hobart. 1982.