



Sepik Beard Amulet

A very early beard amulet figure representing a male ancestor. He is powerfully carved standing with arms akimbo and hands to his hips. The very large head represents more the half the total height of the figure. The face is of classical style with large slanted coffee bean eyes and aquiline nose over a minute mouth. There is a pierced topknot on the head for suspension. The rear of the figure is well carved showing pronounced shoulder blades. These minute figures were worn attached not only to the man's bag but more often were worn in their beard.

Coastal Area, Lower Sepik, PNG, Melanesia. Soft, light wood with red ochre and dry patina of age and wear. 13,5 cm. 19/20th century.

Literature:

Pub. : Michael Hamson – *Parcours des Mondes* 2014, Paris, N° 3, p. 7

Ref.:

Kelm, H.: *KUNST VOM SEPIK*. Vol. I, II, III. Berlin, Museum für Volkerkunde. 1966.

Meyer, Anthony JP: *OCEANIC ART / OZEANISCHE KUNST / ART OCEANIEN*. Könemann Verlag, Köln. 1995.