



### **NEW INFORMATION Yahray Headhunters ornament**

A very important Headhunter's decoration called *ramog* in the language of the Yahray Tribe of Southern Irian Jaya. It possibly represents a phallus, partly covered with a fringed skirt made of Jobs Tears seeds and is worn hanging on the back of the distinguished warrior. The neck-strap is decorated with several pieces of bamboo. This type of decoration was made by the old men of the tribe and was officially awarded during the *batik-jamé*, a pig feast that followed some successful headhunting raids.

There are four levels of distinction amongst the Yahray headhunters and the *ramog* is the first – awarded to a warrior who had succeeded in killing eight opponents during headhunting raids. The others are the *tok* for at least 12 kills; the *oana* for at least 15 kills; and finally, the ultimate distinction is the *gouwa* awarded to those who possessed the ramog, tok and oana.

Yahray Area (formerly known as the Mappi), Mouth of the Digul River, Southern Irian Jaya, Indonesian New Guinea. Gourd, feathers, seeds, and fiber.

### **Exhibitions**

Asmat Art, Oceanic & Eskimo Art, and Paintings by Eugène Brands. Galerie Meyer - Oceanic &

**Literature:**

Pub. : Catalogue of Asmat Art, Oceanic & Eskimo Art, and Paintings by Eugène Brands. Galerie Meyer  
- Oceanic & Eskimo Art, TEFAF 2019, p. 19.

I wish to thank Niels Beckers for not only bringing this important information to my attention but for also publishing an in-depth study of these ornaments and the Yahray tribe as well as bring into the limelight the published works of rev. father Jan Boelaars (1915 - 2004) a Dutch missionary.

Ref. : click here for the PDF of the Niels Beckers article on Jan Boelaars and the Yahray :

[Niels Beckers PDF](#)