



The Captain Thomson Tami Headrest

A headrest supported by two kneeling ancestor, or kami figures. This example was definitely collected at a time when European influence was still limited. The hard, aggressive and angular features of the two figures are unusual when compared to classical Tami examples. Whether this is due to it being from a remote area or possibly carved by a provincial master is undecided. The overall workmanship is refined and the composition well balanced with the two figures supporting the large U shaped struts as if they were some form of ceremonial headdress.

Tami Area, Huon Gulf, PNG, Melanesia. Hard wood (quila) with lime. 15.9 x 6.7 x 18.9 x 16.9 cm. On old paper label under the base "...New Guinea Pillow...".

Exhibitions

Exhibited & Illustrated : OCEANIC HEADRESTS / APPUIE-NUQUE OCEANIENS. Galerie Meyer, Paris, 2004. N° 34, p. 50

Literature:

Ref. :

Captain Thomson Catalogue (1986). Captain Thomson Catalogue. P.L. Pickles & Co., Auctioneers on

September 5th & 6th 1986 at the Menzies Hotel, Sydney, Queensland Museum.