



De Tolna - Bonsel New Ireland Lintel

Large horizontal Malagan frieze, or kobo-kobor, from an initiation house. It is composed of multiple anthropomorphic and zoomorphic imbricated figures. These frieze, or lintels, are usually carved symmetrically extending outward from a central focal point, in this case a hollow circle representing the all-powerful vavara malagan. The ends are carved with representations of large fish, while the rest of the sculpture is made up of a multitude of overlapping birds with long extended feathers. The bodies of two ancestral figures, having unfortunately lost their heads, are also part of the composition. A very similar frieze, collected between the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, is preserved at the Ethnologisches Museum in Berlin (inv.VI57383). New Ireland, Bismarck Archipelago, PNG, Melanesia. Wood (*Alstonia*), pigments, putty nut, and *turbo-marmoratus* opercula. Minor consolidative additions to the rear. Minor lacunae due to age and usage. 296 cm long. 19th century.