

Four Ceremonial Shields for Tambaran House

Artist: unknown
Date: before 1930
Dimensions: 6 to 178 cm high x
6 to 8 cm long
Materials: wood, vegetable
fibers, feathers, fabric, paper,
pigment
Inventory no: 110712, 110726,
110728, 110914

STATE OF PRESERVATION

The feathers are damaged and dehydrated. The wood is splitting.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES

- Pesticide treatment
- Removal of the dust
- Dry-cleaning of the feathers
- Consolidation of the wooden supports
- Re-hydration of the feathers
- Integration of the missing parts where needed
- Overall consolidation
- Photographic documentation and summary

Total Cost € 30.000,00



► These extraordinary shields are decorated with mosaics made of feathers. Their interesting plumage composition is the result of extreme patience and complexity, which displays an astounding perception of colors and geometrical configuration. They are named Molon and portray a large human face, an animal and various decorations. They all come from Papua New Guinea (Lower

Sepik, Keram River) and they were brought to Europe in 1930 by the explorer Gregory Bateson. Some of these objects are also presently conserved in the Cambridge Museum. These shields are extremely rare, since the knowledge of their making and the technique along with their production completely diminished after the Europeans arrived.



A close-up of the delicate craftsmanship of this beautiful shield.