

Polynesian Reliquary

Artist: unknown
Date: 1881-1885
Dimensions: 32 x 430 x 52 cm
Materials: wood, plants fibers
Inventory no: 10075

STATE OF PRESERVATION
Dehydration of wood and leaves. Some fibers and leaves are broken or missing. Infestation of insects.

RESTORATION PROCESS INCLUDES

- Pesticide treatment
- Removal of the dust
- Consolidation of the wood and leaves
- Re-hydration
- Overall consolidation
- Study of the inside and documentation
- Photographic documentation and summary

Total Cost € 7.000,00



► This extremely rare sacred piece comes from the island of Tematangi, Tuamotu Islands Polynesia, and is one of the most important pieces in the Ethnological Museum Collection. It was acquired by the Fathers Fierens and Terlyn, missionaries who were preaching in the island between 1881 and 1885. Because of its importance, this piece has also been studied by Dr. Kaepler from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington.

The case of this reliquary is made of wood wrapped with coconut leaves. The restoration will enable the researchers to study the inside of this piece. In fact, the missionaries wrote about the content of this reliquary, reporting that the inside is divided into three sections with pig teeth, bones of the ancestors and beards of old men from the village.