

ELEGANT CEREMONIAL HEADDRESS

Artist: Unknown

Date: 19th-20th Century

Dimensions: Approximately 260 x 130 cm

Material: Feathers of the bird of paradise, bamboo, vegetable fibres, shells, wood.

Inventory Number: 100627

Total Cost: € 16.055,00

STATE OF PRESERVATION:

The ceremonial headdress and two feathered sceptres are currently in good condition and do not need to be restored. What is specifically needed is a suitable stand made for the dimensions of the headdress in order to better display and preserve the delicate feather-work of these pieces.

This elegant ceremonial headdress with two feathered sceptres belonged to the Mekeo population in Papua New Guinea, and dates from the early twentieth century. These objects were donated in 1925 by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart to the new Missionary Ethnological Museum.

This ceremonial attire, composed of an elegant ritual headdress and two feathered sceptres, was made with feathers of various birds including birds of paradise and cockatoos, and was commissioned by the missionaries to the Mekeo natives. Thus these pieces are a perfect reproduction of the original traditional attire used in the Mekeo ceremonies. Reports state that the making of such objects was an ancient secret of the mountain people.

