

# New Guinea COLLECTION

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Accessioned by:  
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Anthropology Laboratory



# Steering Paddle

Carved Wood  
41" x 5.5" x 1"  
NG2010/C01



# Primal Woman

Symbol of rebirth.

In the upper story of the men's ceremonial or initiation house (*Haus Tambarans*), is stored all of the sacred cult objects. A steep ladder goes up each gable end. Above the top of each ladder on the crossbeam facing towards the interior sits a female figure with splayed legs. Thus one can only reach the upper floor between the legs of this figure, which represents the mythical primal woman. (pictured without 1 leg)

Wood, Raffia, & Cowrie  
23" x 23" x 7"  
NG2010/C02



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# Ancestral Figure



## Mindimbit Culture

Tribal ancestor figures are kept in the spirit house, usually leaning against the wall at an angle. They are believed to enshrine the spirits of their ancestors and are regarded with great respect and reverence. Other ancestor figures are family heirlooms kept by their direct descendants in their own houses.

Carved Wood  
45" x 12" x 10"  
NG2010/C03

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# Spirit Mask



Represents the spirit of a specific ancestor and is kept in the cult house. Used in ceremonies, it allows communication with the clan spirits.

Angriman Village  
Middle Sepik Region

Carved Wood, Basketry, Cowrie,  
Shells, Feathers, & Boar Tusks  
47" x 20" x 10"  
NG2010/C04

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# Spirit Mask



Represents the spirit of a specific ancestor and is kept in the cult house. Used in ceremonies, it allows communication with the clan spirits. Elongation of the nose or tongue signifies strength and virility.

Kandangai Region

Carved Wood, Cowrie, Shells, Raffia Grass,  
Cassowary Feathers, & Boar Tusks  
48" x 17" x 8"  
NG2010/C05

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# Skull Rack

Carved Wood, Cowrie,  
Shells, & Raffia Grass  
60" x 60" x 7"  
NG2010/C06



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# Skull Rack



Attached to the main posts of the men's ceremonial house, the skull rack was formerly adorned with the skulls of slain enemies. The skulls of one's ancestors, over modeled with clay, are now put up and the racks are hung with offerings such as betel nuts and shell money.

These rituals maintain the connection with the spirits of one's ancestors and thus with the powers of the other world. The bark painting represents a "wagen" spirit.

Angoram Village



# Substitute Head



Used in ceremonies.

Carved Wood  
9" x 5" x 4" (head only)  
NG2010/C07

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# Woven Mask



Used in ceremonies.

Woven, Feathers, Mud, & Shells  
11" x 24" x 10"  
NG2010/C08

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# Billum



Kabwum Morobe Province

Woven  
26" x 10" x 1"  
NG2010/C09

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# Bilas



Traditional jewelry, generally woven of bush fiber and adorned with shell and pig tusks. Bilas may be used as gift exchange, as well as bride price.

Woven, Cowrie, & Boar Tusks  
20" x 6" x 1"  
NG2010/C10

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# Bilas



Traditional jewelry, generally woven of bush fiber and adorned with shell and pig tusks. Bilas may be used as gift exchange, as well as bride price.

Woven, Cowrie, Shells, & Seeds  
19" x 8" x 1"  
NG2010/C11

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# Bilas



Traditional jewelry, generally woven of bush fiber and adorned with shell and pig tusks. Bilas may be used as gift exchange, as well as bride price.

Woven, Cowrie, Shells, & Seeds  
36" x 7.5" x 1"  
NG2010/C12

