



Antique Pair Makonde Helmet Masks (lipiko) Tanzania - Depicting European & African, C1900

2 750 EUR



Period : 19th century

Condition : Etat d'usage

Material : Solid wood

Description

An extraordinary pair of antique Makonde helmet masks (Lipiko) carved in wood, originating from southeastern Tanzania and dating to the late 19th or very early 20th century.

These masks were acquired from a European family whose ancestor served as a German army officer stationed in Tanzania in the late 19th century. The officer was later killed during the First World War and the masks have remained in the family ever since.

Makonde helmet masks were traditionally worn during Mapiko initiation ceremonies, important ritual performances marking the transition of boys into adulthood. The masks are carved as full human heads and were worn over the dancer's entire head, with the body concealed by costume.

This pair presents two contrasting characters:

Dealer

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o One mask depicts an African male figure, with closed eyes, serene expression, and remnants of the original dark textured surface representing hair.

o The second mask appears to represent a European colonial figure, identifiable by the exaggerated facial features, broad smiling mouth with carved teeth, prominent nose, and applied hair elements on the sides of the head. Such depictions are well known in Makonde carving and often reflect encounters with colonial administrators, missionaries, or soldiers.

The carving is expressive and powerful, with strong character and excellent surface patina developed through age and ritual use. The interiors show clear signs of traditional hand carving.

Heights approximately 32 cm and 26 cm.

Good condition, with very heavy wear and extensive signs of ritual use consistent with age.

Sold with display stands.

SOLD WITH A CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY

It is possible to pay in installments.

If you have any questions do not hesitate to call me 0678679716 or email

tdixonfrance@yahoo.co.uk.

Frais de port inclus pour la France. Shipping included in the price for FRANCE. Price does not include international shipping. Please contact me for a shipping quote. I am happy to combine shipping costs if you buy more than one item to save you money.

Please note that I ship all items insured priority mail with tracking.

I am an Englishman living down in the beautiful rural South of France and spend my days searching the little brocantes, flea markets, and shops for treasures.

If you are forming a collection, I will be happy to advise you.

Any questions will be answered promptly.

MONEY BACK WITHOUT QUESTION IF I MISREPRESENT SOMETHING IN ANY

WAY.

I want YOU to be happy at the end of the day, so buy with confidence.

I take a great deal of care packing -- I have a proven track record of selling high value, fragile items that arrive safely worldwide.

Payment: Credit Cards via PayPal. Cheque or Bank transfer. Other payment methods are available, please ask.

We speak English and French. Nous parlons anglais et français.