



Stone-headed Puzzle - Toulambi / Anga Groups



3 850 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : En l'etat

Description

Papua New Guinea, HighlandsXXe centuryDESCRIPTIONImportant stone-headed war club from the Highlands of Papua New Guinea, corresponding to examples traditionally used by the Toulambi and neighboring Anga groups.The weapon consists of a sturdy hardwood handle with a patina of use, housing a heavy stone discoid head carefully perforated and then fitted. The simplicity of its design, combined with a consistent ancient patina and natural surface wear, testifies to an object intended for actual use rather than tourist production.This type of weapon has today become emblematic of Papuan mountain societies which, until the middle of the XXe century, still retained a material culture largely based on the use of stone. Designed for close combat, these clubs concentrated their

Dealer

Collection

Rare & Unusual Objects

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effectiveness in the impact power of their lithic heads, capable of producing a particularly destructive shock. Identical weapons appear in the films, photographs and publications of Belgian explorer, ethnologist and filmmaker Jean-Pierre Dutilleux during his missions among the peoples of the Highlands. They are particularly visible in the sequences devoted to the Toulambi, made famous by the documented encounters between hitherto relatively isolated groups and the outside world. In contrast to the richly sculpted ceremonial productions of the Sepik, Highland weapons are characterized by an austere aesthetic where functionality takes precedence over ornamentation. Their expressive power lies precisely in this economy of means, a direct reflection of an ancestral technology that has remained virtually unchanged for centuries. Beyond its ethnographic interest, this piece is a tangible testimony to one of the last great chapters of human exploration, when certain populations of Papua still lived according to technical traditions inherited from recent prehistory.

PROVENANCE Jean-Pierre Dutilleux
Collection Collected in situ during field missions in Papua New Guinea.

PUBLICATION Reproduced in the book: *TRIBES - The First People*, Jean-Pierre Dutilleux, Éditions Vilo.

DOCUMENTATION Field video showing this type of weapon in context of use: https://youtube.com/shorts/POcR_U4p3fsST

ONE HEAD PUZZLE - TOULAMBI