



Staff Of Chief Raoni Metuktire (cacique)



9 500 EUR

Period : 20th century

Condition : En l'etat

Description

Jean-Pierre Dutilleux Collection Kayapo (Mebêngôkre), Brazilian Amazon. ?DESCRIPTION A long stick made of natural wood, with an irregular cross-section, preserved in its original, used condition, displaying a uniform patina resulting from prolonged use. The upper end, slightly bifid and simply shaped, reflects functional craftsmanship aimed at improving the grip. The absence of ornamentation underscores the object's utilitarian nature, in keeping with Kayapo material practices, where value lies in use rather than decoration. This staff accompanies the walker's stride as well as their gestures, contributing to their physical expression and presence. ?CONTEXT AND PRACTICE Among the Kayapo (Mebêngôkre), the chief's personal

Dealer

Collection

Rare & Unusual Objects

Mobile : 0032475266745

Mons 7000

objects do not constitute a codified regalia in the Western sense. The staff is a personal tool, both practical and symbolic. It is known that Raoni Metuktire carried a different staff on each of his international trips, chosen or used for the duration of the journey. At the same time, these trips gave rise to diplomatic exchanges, with the chief receiving or presenting various objects during official and cultural gatherings. In this context, the staff becomes:

- o a travel companion,
- o a symbol of presence and representation,
- o a discreet element of the chief's identity in public settings.

ATTRIBUTION AND DOCUMENTATION This staff is attributed to

Raoni Metuktire and is documented by a photograph taken at Place de la Concorde in Paris in 2001, during one of the chief's international trips. Photograph by Jean-Pierre Dutilleux, a privileged witness to his tours. This

documentation gives the object special significance: it is a personal object identified within a specific context, rather than a mere ethnographic type.

PROVENANCE Jean-Pierre Dutilleux Collection, assembled during fieldwork and through direct contact with Chief

Raoni. Acquired in this context.

ANALYSIS This staff belongs to a category that is rare on the market: documented personal objects linked to a major figure in contemporary history. Contrary to the notion of a single object preserved throughout a lifetime, this item bears witness to a specific moment in Raoni's international journey, captured in a specific photograph. Its significance lies in:

- o its actual use,
- o its contextualization (Paris, 2001),
- o its direct provenance,
- o and its role in the chief's travel practices.

IMPORTANCE This staff constitutes:

- o a material testament to Raoni's international tours,
- o a tangible trace of his presence in Europe,
- o an object at the intersection of ethnography and contemporary history.