Ilongot / Bugkalot Headhunter's Hornbill Headdress

Nueva Vizcaya North Luzon Philippines early 20th century

Ref:
http://www.philippinetribalarts.com/Tribal%20Ornaments/ilongot%20headhunter%20headdress.html

VERY RARE, VALUABLE ILONGOT / BUGKALOT HEADHUNTER HORNBILL HEADDRESS ARTIFACT

This headdress was worn ONLY by an Ilongot who had taken a human head.

For Ilongot headhunting is a ritual and plays a big part in their life cycle and in gender. Taking a head means to a young man becoming an adult and being more attractive to women and respected by his fellow men.

For young Ilongot who wants to marry he needs to prove his manhood by taking a head, once a successful headhunter he is then allowed by elders to wear the hornbill earrings "Batling" and in rituals and ceremonies are allowed to don the

"PANGLAO" - The Hornbill Headdress!

Taking a head and marriage are the only two important steps in an Ilongot’s life.

Origin: Philippines, Northern Luzon, Ilongot Bugkalot tribe.

100% authentic!

Museum quality artifact!
The Ilongot who inhabit certain valleys in the northern Cordillera of Luzon Island, Philippines, have been studied for their singular devotion to taking heads and the unique logic behind this practice. As recent as Rosaldo's study in 1968, it was calculated that more than 90% of men over the age of 20 had taken at least one head. But the reasons behind such perceived savagery was not, as was the case with most SE Asian head taking groups, to control other souls or to increase the fortunes of the community. Instead, men said that they took heads when they had a 'heavy heart' or felt angry or strong pressures. Taking a head helped a man to tame his wild emotions and passions, quieting his restless spirit and allowing knowledge and maturity to gain control and grow. Only in this way could a man ask a woman to marry him. Only after taking a head was a man allowed to wear the hornbill earrings, or "batling," and to don the ornate hornbill headdress during rituals and ceremonies.
MAGNIFICENT 19TH C. ILONGOT HEADHUNTER’S HORNBILL HEADDRESS

Ref.: http://www.tribalmania.com/ILONGOTHORNBILLHEADDRESS.htm

Origin: Philippines, Northern Luzon, Ilongot tribe  Provenance: I sold this rare piece about 8 years ago and just had the unique opportunity to buy it back from a collector. Ex. Erik Farrow San Rafael, CA. Ex. Collection Tucker Robins New York, 1998 (Noted Furniture Artist)

Period/Date: Late 19th Century

Materials: Wood/ wicker rattan, copper, brass, Scarlet Hornbill Bird, pearl shell, red string
Description: This gorgeous hornbill headdress is called a “Panglao“ and is presented on a custom metal stand. The wearing of the “Panglao” indicates to all that its owner has taken a human “head”. For the Ilongot, red is a highly charged color which excites passion, anger and energy. What makes it so special is its undisputable age, likely dating to the 1880s. There are probably less than a dozen of these existent of this period with such quality traditional construction! In addition, most of these were made for sale in the 1970’s-80’s, so to find an authentic one of this vintage is all the more rare. It is made of the skull of the scarlet Hornbill bird ingeniously attached to a thin bent wicker structure forming a headband. The eyes are plugged with mother-of-pearl and are secured with red string. The dangling pendants are made of twisted copper wire with delicately cut pieces of mother-of-pearl. It has acquired an encrusted patina and the fancy brass and copper fittings are oxidized from age. The hornbill skull is thin and fragile by nature. There is some slight loss to the top edge of the skull and to the opposite side as would be expected on a piece this old.

A similar example can be seen on page 168 of “Form and Splendor” by Roberto Maramba, Copyright 1998.

Dimensions: Length 21” (53.5 cm), Width 7.5” (19 cm)
Ilongot weapons with two Panglao's, Dean Worcester Collection (Nat. Geogr.1912).

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