

Ethnologisches Museum, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin [CC BY-NC-SA]

Object: Panji Basket (Soku/Shuku)

Museum: Ethnologisches Museum

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Collection: Süd- und Südostasien, Naga-

Sammlung

I C 28470

Inventory

number:

Description

The name on the card is "soku" or "shuku". The small plant-fibre basket contains 10 human heads carved in wood, which indicate that the basket would be carried only by a successful headhunter. The basket is worn over the shoulder with a raffia strap. The basket usually contains panji, fire-hardened bamboo sticks sharpened at one end that are hidden in the ground. These are inserted in the ground to keep pursuers at bay during battle and headhunting (anyone stepping on the sharp bamboo tip would injure themselves)

Basic data

Material/Technique: Vegetable fiber; wood, inlay possibly bone,

hair

Measurements: Height x width x depth: $55.5 \times 13.5 \times 23$ cm;

Events

Created When 1851-1900

Who Ao Naga

Where India

Collected When 1892-1894

Who Otto Ehrenfried Ehlers (1855-1895)

Where Nagaland

Keywords

Basket

- Headhunting
- Warfare