

Wine Cup (Linnak)

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Paiwan

Medium

Wood



Description

This ceremonial wine cup or linnak (literally twin cup) was used by the indigenous Paiwan people of southern Taiwan. The double cup was brought out on a number of occasions, always to cement the relationship between the two sharing a drink from a linnak’s bowls. Perhaps the most common of these usages was sharing rice wine between newly wedded husbands and wives. Goods decorated with carvings were generally reserved for the wealthiest families. A disembodied head was a common figure in Paiwan carving. It could represent either an ancestor or reference the practice of headhunting carried out by the Paiwan up until the 19th Century.

Dimensions

2 × 28 × 4 1/2 in. (5.1 × 71.1 × 11.4 cm)