

Basic Detail Report



Wood

Description

This is a Dinka headrest from South Sudan. As with much of sub-Saharan eastern Africa, the headrest is not imbued with any spiritual meaning, but it does play the usual role in keeping one’s head off of the ground while sleeping and protecting one’s coiffure. An elaborate hairstyle was a status symbol. Amongst the Dinka, tribal elders also used headrests as stools as it was considered poor form to sit on the floor.

Dimensions

9 3/4 × 25 1/4 × 4 1/8 in. (24.8 × 64.1 × 10.5 cm)

Headrest

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Dinka

Medium