



Headrest

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Karamojong

Medium

Wood and beads

Description

A member of the Karamojong culture, a Nilotic group living in northeast Uganda, made this headrest sometime in the 20th Century, though similar saddle-shaped wooden headrests are made in the border region between Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda. Headrests are commonly used throughout Africa to help protect intricate coiffures while resting, though in many cases they carry with them a certain degree of spiritual meaning or prestige. At least in certain instances, it was noted that Karamojong headrests hold special magical powers of

guidance and the ability to commune with the community's ancestors.

Dimensions

6 7/8 × 6 1/2 × 3 in. (17.5 × 16.5 × 7.6 cm)