



## Headrest (Kali Lao)

**Date**

20th Century

**Medium**

Wood and plant fiber

**Description**

This is a Tongan headrest. Tongan headrests can be made in a few varieties: they are either symmetrical or

asymmetrical in form and can be carved from a single piece of wood, or have their legs "lashed" to the main beam using coconut fiber cord—the same technique was created for building canoes. Headrests are a ceremonial gift that is given during a wedding. This headrest is a kali lao, defined by its function and size. Rather than protect coiffures these headrests were used to keep the head off the ground and to allow a more comfortable sleep.

**Dimensions**

3 × 18 × 3 1/2 in. (7.6 × 45.7 × 8.9 cm)