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Provenience: Melanesia (New Guinea)

Field No.

People or Culture: Papuan GulfObject: drumMaterial: wood with tympanum of reptile skin

Description: buruburu type (Budji); blackened wood with incised floral design (clan totem ?) at tympanum end; constricted at center with cylindrical handle; handle decoration is concentric circles with extensions out onto the body of the drum; deeply incised intaglio and

Neg. No.

Dimensions:

(in cm.)

110.0

over

Collection: Gift of Mr. Raymond Wielgus of Chicago. 8 July 1959

Acc. 2662

concentric circle patterns; intaglio sections were at one time painted red and white.

Drums such as this were traded broadly in the Papuan Gulf regions and even out into the Torres Straits Islands. Some villages even reworked drums originally manufactured in other areas, creating their own patterns of decoration and introducing their own variations in style. See the following sources:

Landtman, Gunnar. The Kiwai Papuans of British New Guinea. Macmillan and Co. London, 1927, pp. 43-48.

Reports of the Cambridge Anthropological Expedition to Torres Straits. Cambridge University Press. Cambridge, 1912. See Vol. IV, pp. 278-281 and Vol. V, pp. 163 and 167.

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