

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM—ETHNOLOGY

277339

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FC-1092

97476

49-19

Catalogue No.

ENT

Accession No.

Field Catalogue No.

Negative No.

Sub. Ind. No.

General Provenience: MELANESIA New Hebrides

Where collected:

Tribe:

Where made:

People:

Attribution: Malekula

Culture:

Brief description: Mask (see over)

Detailed description: Molded mask of fiber and gum painted blue and white. Boar's tusks extend outward from corners of mouth and enter face again near ear areas. Spider web covering at back and twisted sennit fiber cords are affixed to each side. See reverse

DIMENSIONS (in cm.):

length: 17.3

height:

diameter:

width: 18.0

circumference:

Fuller Collection: Purchased from Captain A. W. F. Fuller of London, England, in 1958
 Collected by Capt. E. G. Rason R.N. while commissioner of the islands (1902-08). Acquired by Fuller 1/ 11/ 1916.

Said to be a sacrificial smothering mask. Fuller's notes indicate that formerly a label with the following information was attached: "This mask was used to sacrifice victims by attaching the mask to the face & pressing the matted spider's web attachment against the mouth & nostrils, & thus slowly suffocating him; the idea being that the deity in the mask has taken away the spirit. No marks of violence being shown."

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