

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM—ETHNOLOGY

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Catalogue No.

Accession No.

Field Catalogue No.

Negative No.

Sub. Ind. No.

General Provenience: Polynesia (Hawaii)

Where collected:

Tribe:

Where made:

People:

Attribution:

Culture:

Brief description: Feather god image

Detailed description: Extremely rare image of Kukailimoku, god of war. Wickerwork frame with olona fiber mesh covering with red, yellow, and black feathers sewn or tied in. Birds supplying feathers were Vestiaria coccinea, red; Moho nobilis or Drepanis pacifica, yellow; and ^{See reverse} ☒

DIMENSIONS (in cm.):

length:

height: 26.5

diameter:

width:

circumference:

Fuller Collection: Purchased from Captain A. W. F. Fuller of London, England, in 1958

Drepanis pacifica or Moho nobilis, black. Object is illustrated in Buck, P. H., Arts and Crafts of Hawaii, B. P. Bishop Special Publication 45, 1957, p. 512, Fig. 323. This is the smallest of the few specimens of its type extant. It is well preserved and generally red with a yellow band at the lower end of the neck. The crest is formed of yellow and black feathers. Eyes are of pearl shell set elliptically with carved wooden pupils. Teeth are of small shark teeth. A wicker prop of two pieces is visible through the mouth aperture.

Fuller purchased the specimen in about 1926 from a family named Bate who lived in the area near Portsmouth, England. The idol had been in the Bate family for several generations and the family tradition was that it had been collected by a member of Cook's third voyage who then gave it to one of the ancestral Bates. A very old printing script on several pieces of wood which served to ring the specimen around the base indicated that the piece was a "Feathered Idol" from the Sandwich Isles" "South Seas: See" "Cooke's ^[sic] Last Voyage" Exhibited at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, May 1956 to Feb. 1957.