

## FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY—ETHNOLOGY

23-13

**Provenience:** Lamberene, Gabon.**People or Culture:** Fang**Object:** Mask**Material:** Wood

**Description:** Large Janus-headed mask with 2 smaller profiles of mystical figures. Carver: Francois Alouma from village of Isaac in Fang territory. Mandji wood. Hollow, no eye openings raffia topknot & ruff, charcoal markings on white (KAOLIN) faces. First full face has black hair; flat oval shaped face in Fang manner; black vertical line down forehead to protruding brows lined in black, orange underneath; fat but flat-ish nose; V scarification under each eye; black moustache; pursed, protruding slit mouth painted orange; protruding small ears in orange. Turning head to right is smaller (contd)

**Dimensions:**  
(in cm.) H.= 36 X D.= 98

**Collection:** Withrow W. MeekerA  
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face in relief profile facing right; black hair; carved black-lined eyes, brows, ears; horizontal lines on neck with slanted vertical lines on to chest area followed by solid black area; some orange around head; unusual. Next full face has black hair; inverted crescent on forehead; protruding black brows; black slits for eyes, 2 vertical lines under each eye; fat, protruding nose; sunken cheeks; orange mouth; very small straight protruding ears; square chin; oval shaped face. Next is another small in relief profile turned to left; larger orange area above head; most crude of all faces kaolin dripped on to black slanted stripes on chest & shoulders; incised black lines outline features. Crude & contemporary. Purpose: ceremonial. Paint color symbols: white=spirit of ancestors; black=blood of the dead; orange/red=blood of the living. Four faces allow persons to see everywhere at same time.

