

A

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

16-61

No 8238

Country

Br. Guiana

1-6

People

Probably Macusi

Locality

Name

(over)

Feather crowns = 3 with 3 upright

Collection

*feathers = 3 flat circular ones,
Dutch = Com. N. G. C.*

Where Placed

Notes

ad. 14

sch. 1918. Ornate feather headdresses and other feather ornaments are among the most typical and ubiquitous features of S. American culture. Among the tribes of Guiana they are particularly well made. There is a general similarity throughout the region though each group has its particular characteristics of arrangement and manufacture.

Feather headdresses are of two kinds which may best be described as "crowns" and "halos". The crowns consist of an encircling band of feathers which stand upright while from the back three long red feathers of the macaw project up vertically. In the case of the halos, all the feathers extend outward on the same plane, while the long red feathers project forwards. All have cords by which they are held on the head and the crowns have furthermore long pendant cords which hang down the back and to which other ornaments are attached.

All of these are made on a framework of light plaited wickerwork. The feathers are carefully selected for color and shape and matched so that they form solid bands and rows of color. They are used only at dances and ceremonies.