

Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0001

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Washoe

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Willow; redbud; dyed bracken fern root

Description: Polychrome bowl shaped basket containing numerous figurative elements including men on horse back, birds of prey, insects and others. Sara Mayo is considered to be the first Washoe weaver to incorporate representative designs (around 1905) within her basket decorations.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 10.375 inches; Height 6 inches

Provenance:

Sara Mayo



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0002

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Kawaiisu

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Willow; red yucca root, grass

Description: Bottleneck basket, with a stepped square design, woven in a manner known as the "grasshopper" stitch.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 13.25 inches; Height 9 inches

Provenance:

Probably made by the Williams or Butterbread families of the Kelso Canyon area
Collected by Frank Latta
Yosemite National Park Service collection, deaccessioned

References:

cf, Moser, Christopher L., *Native American Basketry of Central California*, Riverside Museum Press, Riverside, 1986, pp iii for a similarly woven basket

Notes (click on note to open):

Craig D. Bates 1992



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0003

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Costanoan

Period: 1825-1850

Materials: Deer grass root foundation as a bundle, sewn with strands of split sedge root; white glass beads

Description: Acorn flour sifting basket woven with a non-interlocking stitch and with large white opaque beads woven into the outside base in two concentric rings.

Condition: Good

Dimensions: Width 9.125 inches; Height 1.75 inches

Provenance:

San Juan Batista area

References:

Letter describing this basket from Craig Bates, Curator of Ethnography, Yosemite National Park Service, December 14, 1990

Notes (click on note to open):

Craig D. Bates 1990



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0004

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Nomlaki

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: White sedge roots and black dyed bulrush roots

Description: Bowl, circa 1890, woven on 3-rod foundation, vertically oriented combining 2 discreet elements that opens on its ascent up the basket.

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Width 9.5 inches; Height 5.25 inches

References:

Letter describing this basket from Bruce Bernstein, Santa Fe, New Mexico, October 27, 1991

Notes (click on note to open):

[Bruce Bernstein 1991](#)



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0005

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Salinian

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Sedge grass root on a grass bundle foundation; red and green wool yarn; faceted glass black beads; quail topknots; flicker quill

Description: Salinian basket, inside work face, rightward coil direction, ornamented with tufts of red and green wool yarn, black glass beads, quail topknots and flicker quill on the rim.

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Width 7.875 inches; Height 3.675 inches

Provenance:

Perfecta Encinales

References:

Letter describing this basket from Craig Bates, Curator of Ethnography, Yosemite National Park Service, May 29, 1992

Notes (click on note to open):

Craig D. Bates 1992



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0006

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Karok

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Maidenhair fern; porcupine quills dyed with staghorn lichen (wolfmoss); wild grape root, myrtle sticks.

Description: Lidded basket with flint (obsidian blade) design.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 5.5 inches; Height w/o top 3 inches; Height with top 5 inches

Provenance:

Elizabeth Hickox

References:

Letter describing this basket from Coleen Kelly Marks, Orick, California, May 28, 1993



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0007

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Mono - Shoshonean

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Sedge root; bracken fern root and redbud.

Description: Globular basket with three alternating designs of polychrome zig-zag bands. An early example of the Field Days era basketry.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 8 inches; Height 4 inches

Provenance:

Emma Murphy

Exhibitions:

Bishop Harvest Days, Bishop, Ca., 1916

References:

Bates, Craig D. and Martha J. Lee, *Traditions and Innovations; A Basket History of the Indians of the Yosemite-Mono Lake Area*, Yosemite Association, Yosemite National Park, 1990, pp. 88, fig. 167.
Letter describing this basket from Craig Bates, Curator of Ethnography, Yosemite National Park, August 18, 1995

Notes (click on note to open):

Craig D. Bates 1995



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0008

Category: Hat

Region: Northwest Coast

Tribe: Haida

Period: 1975-2000

Materials: Sitka spruce root harvested on the north coast of Haida Gwaii (aka Queen Charlotte Islands); red and black pigment

Description: Potlach hat with three rings on top; hand woven in 1991. The pattern woven into the crown of the hat is a spider web; the pattern on the brim is a slug trail. "The spider was admiring her web she had just spun on the hat. The slug, being somewhat jealous, decided she could do something just as beautiful, so she came down the brim of the hat making the zig zag pattern." The hat was painted in 1994 by the Haida artist Robert Davidson. On one side he depicted an Eagle and on the other, Mouse Woman.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 14 inches; Height 11 inches

Provenance:

Isabel Rorick, 1991

References:

Email from Isabel Rorick



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0009

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Mono - Western Mono

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Sedge root; bracken fern root and redbud.

Description: Large polychrome coiled basket with a top to bottom radiating stepped design, and various other design elements.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 20.5 inches; Height 10.375 inches

Provenance:

Minnie Maxwell (aka Mrs. Ole Johson and Mrs. Margaret M. McPherson)
Howard Lewis, 1965

References:

Letter from Howard Lewis, November 22, 1986, describing the collection of this basket from Mrs. McPherson 1n 1965.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0010

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Miwok

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Split bull pine; dyed bracken fern root.

Description: Single rod bottleneck basket with four zig zag design elements made with dyed bracken fern root.

Condition: Good

Dimensions: Width 17 inches; Height 6 inches

Provenance:

Jackson, California

References:

Letter describing this basket from Craig Bates, Curator of Ethnography, Yosemite National Park, April 28, 1992

Notes (click on note to open):

Craig D. Bates 1992



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0011

Category: Basket

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Attu

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Sea grass; various colors of silk

Description: 2 piece wallet, very finely woven with multi-colored "X" designs.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 2.75 inches; Length (extended) 8.5 inches.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0012

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Cahuilla - Pass Cahuilla

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Juncus; sumac.

Description: Basket tray with a whirling star design

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 12 3/4 inches; Height 2 inches

Provenance:

Morongo Indian Reservac



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0013

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Pomo

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Bull rush root; willow; shell beads, quail topknots, woodpecker tufts

Description: Boat shaped Pomo treasure basket with a stepped design.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 6 inches; Width 3.25 inches; Height 1.125 inches

Provenance:

Charles Miles Collection



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0014

Category: Basket

Region: Northwest Coast

Tribe: Tlingit

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Spruce root

Description: Finely woven spruce root basket. Design is double head of a salmon berry and Greek fret.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 8 inches; Height 4.875 inches

Provenance:

E. M. Rhodes & Co., Seattle, Wa.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0015

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Miwok - Coastal Miwok

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Thread; mallard feathers; beads; abalone shells

Description: Bowl shaped basket with abalone pendants and threaded beads in three rows of zigzag patterns

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Width 8.75 inches; Height 3.75 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0016

Category: Dress

Region: California

Tribe: Hupa - Karok

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Native tanned deerskin; bear grass; red alder dyed woodwardia fern; maidenhair fern; pine nuts; abalone shells; brass bells

Description: Ceremonial wrap-around dress that is worn folded and covers the back and sides of the wearer and leaves the front open (to be covered by a loin apron).

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 30.5 inches; Height (when unfolded) 54 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0017

Category: Apron

Region: California

Tribe: Hupa - Karok

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Canvas, iris twine, bear grass, juniper berries, pine nuts

Description: Ceremonial apron worn along with a wrap-around dress

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Width 11 inches; Height 22.5 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0018

Category: Bowl

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1825-1850

Materials: Cedar wood; white stone

Description: Food bowl carved of cedar with a two-part bent wood rim inlaid with white stone carved in the form of circles and lozenges. Written in ink on the side of the bowl: "This dish was in use as a fish tureen when I went into the house of Chief Little John at Anvik, June 17, 1901. The Chief said the dish was older than his father. W.P. Gray, Master Str., "Robert Kerr".

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Length 14.25 inches; Height 3.5 inches; Width 9.25 inches

Provenance:

Chief Little John, Anvik, Alaska
Captain W.P. Gray, 1901

References:

cf, Fitzhugh, William W. and Susan A. Kaplan, *Inua; Spirit World of the Bering Sea Eskimo*, Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington D.C., 1982, pp 120, Fig. 125 for a similar example.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0019

Category: Purse

Region: California

Tribe: Yurok

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Elk horn

Description: Elk horn purse with lid, decorated in ink with many triangles. The triangles represent "snake noses".

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 6.625 inches

References:

Skinner Auction Catalogue, Skinner, Inc., Bolton, Massachusetts, Sale 1519, June 26, 1993, Lot 199
Letter describing this purse from Coleen Kelly Marks, Orick, California, September 1, 1993



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0021

Category: Stick

Region: Southwest

Tribe: Hopi

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Wood; red and black pigment

Description: Two Hopi throwing sticks used to knock down rabbits. They have identical markings indicating that they may have been made by the same individual.

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Length (longest) 26.75 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0022

Category: Arrow

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1825-1850

Materials: Spruce wood; whale bone; ivory; sinew; feathers; thread

Description: Sea Otter arrow tied with braided sinew in a martingale configuration. This arrow has a whale bone forepiece and a barbed ivory point. When the arrow is shot, the shaft drags in the water slowing down the otter and providing an aid to the hunter in tracing the animal.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 35.5 inches

References:

cf, Mason, Otis Tufton, *North American Bows, Arrows and Quivers*, Carl J. Pugliese, New York, 1972 (reprint), Plate LIX



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0023

Category: Bow

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1850-1875

Materials: Wood; sinew; black pigment

Description: Bow with sinew cables running the entire length. The outside of the bow has been pigmented black (faded) except for the last 6 inches on either end. pigmented grooves have been carved into both sides of the bow at the grip and near both ends.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 52.5 inches

References:

cf, Mason, Otis Tufton, *North American Bows, Arrows and Quivers*, Carl J. Pugliese, New York, 1972 (reprint), Plate LXVI, #3a.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0024

Category: Bow

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1850-1875

Materials: Wood; sinew; black pigment

Description: Bow with sinew cableing running the entire length of the bow. Additional braided sinew is lashed around the bow to hold the main cable next to the bow.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 58.75 inches

References:

cf, Mason, Otis Tufton, *North American Bows, Arrows and Quivers*, Carl J. Pugliese, New York, 1972 (reprint), Plate LXVII, #7, for an identical example.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0025

Category: Arrow

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1825-1850

Materials: Spruce wood; whale bone; ivory; sinew; feathers

Description: Sea Otter arrow tied with braided sinew in a martingale configuration. The fletching on this arrow has been knotted. This arrow has a whale bone forepiece and a barbed ivory point. When the arrow is shot, the shaft drags in the water slowing down the otter and providing an aid to the hunter in tracing the animal.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 34 inches

References:

cf, Mason, Otis Tufton, *North American Bows, Arrows and Quivers*, Carl J. Pugliese, New York, 1972 (reprint), Plate LIX



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0026

Category: Quiver

Region: Southwest

Tribe: Apache - Mescalero

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Native tanned deerskin; red trade cloth; wood; sinew, steel arrow points

Description: Complete bow and arrow set with sinew backed bow, 13 steel tipped arrows and heavily fringed quiver. Old tag says, "Property of Geo A Cuneo, No. 7, Outfit Mescalero Apache Indian." Museum card indicates that it was received by the Denver Art Museum on August 25, 1937.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length (quiver) 43.5 inches

Provenance:

George A. Cuneo, Denver, Colorado
Denver Art Museum, Deaccessioned



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0027

Category: Bow

Region: California

Tribe: Modoc

Period: 1850-1875

Materials: Osage orange wood; sinew; red and black pigment

Description: Bow with red and black pigmented designs on the outside.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 46 inches

References:

Email from Steve Allely, October 2008



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0028

Category: Paddle

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1850-1875

Materials: Cedar wood; black pigment

Description: Single blade paddle with black pigment on both sides of the blade. The shaft of the blade is inserted in to a separate piece hand hold.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 54.25 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0030

Category: Paddle

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Cedar wood; baleen; black pigment

Description: Single blade paddle with black pigment on one half of one side of the blade. Clear and black baleen attached around the shaft where the shaft meets the blade. Separate hand hold.

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Length 60.75 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0031

Category: Bow

Region: California

Tribe: Yurok

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Yew wood; sinew; red pigment; animal skin; animal hair

Description: Sinew backed bow incorporating red pigment designs all along the outer face. Hand hold area is wrapped with animal skin and hair.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 36.5 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0032

Category: Bow

Region: California

Tribe: Yurok

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Yew wood; red and black pigment; sinew

Description: Bow with red and black pigmented designs on the outside.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 41 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0033

Category: Bow

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Yew wood; sinew

Description: Bow with sinew cableing running the entire length of the bow. Additional braided sinew is lashed around the bow to hold the main cable next to the bow.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 51.75 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0034

Category: Bow- Bow Case

Region: Plains

Tribe: Arapaho

Period: 1850-1875

Materials: Wood, native tanned deerskin; multi-colored trade beads; porcupine quills; sinew sewn

Description: Bow with sinew bow string. Bow case has a beaded pattern at either end that surrounds multiple bands of quilling.

Condition: Good

Dimensions: Length (bow case) 33 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0035

Category: Paddle

Region: California

Tribe: Unknown

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Wood

Description: Acorn mush paddle with three carved flairs. Old indecipherable collectors tag.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 26 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0037

Category: Knife

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Bone

Description: Snow knife used to carve and cut snow.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 10.75 inches

Provenance:

Charles Miles Collection

References:

cf, Miles, Charles, *Indian and Eskimo Artifacts of North America*, Bonanza Books, New York, 1963, pp 207, Fig. 10.2.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0038

Category: Skirt

Region: California

Tribe: Unknown

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Native tanned animal skin; red pigment

Description: Painted skirt worn by a male in ceremonial dances. The skirt is worn folded over and then wrapped around the waist. Symbolic stars and lines painted with reddish pigment.

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Length (unfolded) 43 inches; Width 42 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0039

Category: Rattle

Region: Northeast

Tribe: Iroquois

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Snapping turtle; commercial leather

Description: Turtle rattle used in ceremonial dances by the Iroquois False Face Society

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Length 19.5 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0040

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Kawaiisu

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Split willow; yucca root

Description: Bottleneck basket with split willow and yucca root coiling to the right over a grass stem foundation. Decorated with two concentric designs called "flight of the butterfly".

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Height 4.75 inches; Width 6.5 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0041

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Pomo

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Bull rush root; willow; shell beads, quail topknots, woodpecker tufts

Description: Round Pomo gift basket with a fret design; shells and quail top knots arranged around the rim. The outside is covered with the remnants of red woodpecker tufts.

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Height 1.5 inches; Width 3.25 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0042

Category: Hook

Region: Northwest Coast

Tribe: Tlingit

Period: 1850-1875

Materials: Wood; bone; spruce root

Description: Two piece halibut fishhook with a halibut effigy carved into the top piece. The size of the "V" opening and the distance of the bone hook to the opposite arm dictated the size of the fish that could be caught. Too large of a fish would have been too heavy for a single fisherman and too small of a fish would have begun to deplete the reproductive stock.

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Length 9.5 inches



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0043

Category: Basket

Region: California

Tribe: Hupa - Karok

Period: 1900-1925

Materials: Willow; beargrass; maidenhair fern; buckskin

Description: Jump dance basket; willow warps, wefts of conifer root and half-twist overlay in beargrass and maidenhair fern stem, twined as a flat rectangle with rows of bands and shaped into a tube over willow rods. Ends closed with buckskin and buckskin tassels. The "jumping dance" is a world-renewal dance of the Hupa.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 16 inches (21 inches w/sticks)



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0044

Category: Bow

Region: Northwest Coast

Tribe: Tlingit - ?

Period: 1825-1850

Materials: Yew wood; sinew

Description: Hunting bow with sinew bow sting. The belly (inside) of the bow has been carved with three very precisely formed parallel grooves that run its entire length. "These grooves appear similar to the fluted front surface of certain Tlinget steel daggers from the early historic period." per Steve Brown.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 51 inches; Width 2.25 inches

Notes (click on note to open):

Steven C. Brown



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0045

Category: Rattle

Region: Northwest Coast

Tribe: Haisla - Heiltsuk (Bella Bella)

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Hardwood; paint; cord.

Description: Raven rattle, originally the property of Shaman, gradually became the preferred rattle of the chiefly class. See Steven Brown's note below.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 11.625 inches

Notes (click on note to open):

Steven C. Brown 2006



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0046

Category: Bow

Region: Northwest Coast

Tribe: Kwakwaka'wakw

Period: 1800-1825

Materials: Yew wood; sinew

Description: Southern Northwest Coast bow with sinew twisted bowstring. Marked with collector numbers H1514 (Hooper), A76187a (unknown) and #276 (unknown). The #276 tag is probably the oldest. See Steven C. Brown's note below.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 31 inches; 78.75 cm.

Provenance:

W.O. Oldman Collection, #6916
James Hooper Collection, #1514
Adelaide deMenil Collection
Alan Silberberg, Littleton, Massachusetts

References:

cf, King, J.C.H., *Artificial Curiosities from the Northwest Coast of America; Native American Artifacts in the British Museum collected on the Third Voyage of Captain James Cook and acquired through Sir Joseph Banks*, British Museum Publications Limited, London, 1981, pp 86, 87.
Sotheby's Auction Catalogue, Sotheby's, New York, New York, June 4, 1997, Lot #207

Notes (click on note to open):

Steven C. Brown 2006



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0047

Category: Paddle

Region: Plains

Tribe: Cree

Period: 1750-1775

Materials: Wood; varnish

Description: Hand carved wood paddle with a flattened grip at the top, rounded section in the middle, and broad flat face at the bottom. Decorative zig zag designs on the face of the paddle created by marking the varnish when it was wet.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 68 inches

Provenance:

George Holt, Hudson Bay Company, between 1768 and 1771

Dr. Andrew Gifford, England 1775

Baptist Academy, Bristol, England 1784

Linda Barnard Finer, England 1979

Alexander Gallery

John and Marva Warnock Collection

Notes (click on note to open):

Drs. Ted Brasser 2005

Cath Oberholtzer, Ph.D.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0048

Category: Bow

Region: Arctic

Tribe: Eskimo - Caribou Eskimo

Period: 1750-1775

Materials: Wood (cedar?); sinew

Description: Three piece wood bow tied together with braided sinew and backed with braided sinew. On the bow is written in ink, "Esquimaux Bow with arrows and bound with deer sinew. Presented to Dr. Gifford by George Holt, 1775".

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Length 60.25 inches

Provenance:

George Holt, Hudson Bay Company, between 1768 and 1771

Dr. Andrew Gifford, England 1775

Baptist Academy, Bristol, England 1784

Linda Barnard Finer, England 1979

Alexander Gallery

John and Marva Warnock Collection

Notes (click on note to open):

Drs. Ted Brassler 2005



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0049

Category: Dress

Region: Plains

Tribe: Cheyenne

Period: 1875-1900

Materials: Tanned deerskin; cowrie shells; white, blue, red and green seed beads; brown, white and blue glass tube beads; red trade cloth; red and yellow ochre; cotton thread; sinew sewn.

Description: Girls dress containing several hundred cowrie shells carved in the form of elks teeth on the top front and back; neck area surrounded with a pattern of green, blue and red beads on a foundation of white beads applied to the red cloth which also contains a very delicate design woven in thread. Heavily fringed on sides, front and bottom.

Condition: Excellent

Dimensions: Length 35.5 inches; Width 25.25 inches

Provenance:

Alexander Gallery
John and Marva Warnock Collection



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0050

Category: Doll

Region: Southwest

Tribe: Hopi

Period: 1900-1925 (1895 to 1905)

Materials: Cottonwood, native and commercial pigments, cotton thread

Description: Ma-alo belongs to the early period of Kachina development. It is a cloud-bringing Kachina who wears a band of cloud symbols around the forehead and performs a dance that portrays a prayer for rain and good crop yield. The pine wood base is a Keam or Fred Harvey type, painted black. A typed label on the back side reads, "A Malow Katchina used in the Hopi Ceremonials."

Condition: Very Good; a broken, but still attached left forearm.

Dimensions: Height 9.5 inches

Provenance:

Apache County, Arizona.
In one family for the past 60 years.



Collection: Nagy

Item Number: NC0051

Category: Doll

Region: Southwest

Tribe: Hopi

Period: 1875-1900 - 1886

Materials: Cottonwood, dyed horse hair, native and commercial pigments, cotton thread

Description: Hilili Kachina. Hilili is a guard used to protect against witchcraft. This kachina was borrowed from the Zuni who had borrowed it from one or more of the Rio Grande tribes, most likely Cochiti. The object on the top of the head represents a sun on the right side and a knife on the left. The knife is from the Great Knife Society. The relationship between the knife and sun has been lost in the transference of the symbol from east to west. According to documentation from Barton Wright, he estimates that Mrs. Mathilda Coxe Evans Stevenson collected this doll in 1886 (Smithsonian Number 113605) and may have been either deaccessioned or sold to Victor J. Evans prior to the 1930s who then donated it to the Smithsonian in 1931 (361088).

Condition: Very Good

Dimensions: Height 9 inches

Provenance:

Mathilda Coxe Evans Stevenson
Victor J. Evans

References:

Letter describing this kachina from Barton Wright, dated February 19, 2009

