



Miniature mask, one of ten

Not on display

Title/Description: Miniature mask, one of ten

Object Type: Mask

Materials: Wood

Measurements: h. 95 x w. 54 x d. 31 mm

Accession Number: 834a

Historic Period: Late 19th/early 20th century

Production Place: Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia

Cultural Group: Dan and Bassa

Credit Line: Purchased with support from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1982

Dr. G.W. Harley, the American Missionary of Ganta in north-east Liberia between the wars, was the source of the great collection in the Peabody Museum at Harvard, on which for many years our knowledge and understanding of the Dan was largely based. He also collected for other institutions and collectors and the present small group was acquired some years after his death.

This mask (834a) is in a category of its own; the wood is probably from a temperate zone, and it is likely to be a work from Dr Harley's own hand. If so, though not unique, it is an interesting addition.

Margaret Carey, 1997

Entry taken from *Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Vol. 2: Pacific, African and Native North American Art*, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997) p. 118.

Provenance

Collected by Dr G. W. Harley, Methodist Minister in Liberia 1927 - 1952.

Purchased by the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia from K. J. Hewett in 1982 on the advice of Robert Sainsbury out of income from the Sainsbury Purchasing Fund.
