Dis-Indo-Timor-Ancestral Figurines

**Formal Label: Timor Island, Indonesia, male and female ancestral figures carved from bone.**

**Accession Number:**

**Date or Time Horizon:** Early 1900’s

**Geographical Area:** Timor

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Medium:** Bone

**Dimensions:** ­­­­

**Weight:**

**Provenance:**

**Condition:**

**Discussion:**

Timor Island, Indonesia, Hand-Carved Buffalo Bone Scrimshaw engraved Male and Female Amulet Figures

These figures, carved by the local shaman *matan do’ok* (far seeing eye), are part of the Shaman’s Tetum Magic Tool Set and are given to a newly married couple as a ritual wedding offering by the Village Shaman. The tuff of black buffalo hair on top of the head of each effigy represents the protective power of the ancestors.

**References:**

* **Tetum Ghosts and Kin: Fertility and Gender in East Timor, Second Edition.** Waveland Press Inc.; 2nd edition, July 2003.

  

                               

       