A….AM,S-Peru-Chancay-Burial Doll with Serpentine Design-1000-1470 CE



**Case no.:**

**Accession Number: AT6**

**Formal Label:** Peru-Chancay-Textile with Feline Heads-1000-1470 CE

**Display Description:**

This Chancay polychrome textile doll (1000-1400 CE) from the north coast of Peru hasfabrics with a serpentine, wave motif. The hammock in which she rests is of a thin gauze-like structure and wrapped in many folds (see Feltham 1996: 440).

Chancay civilization developed between the valleys of Chancay, Chillon, Rimac and Lurin, on the central coast of Peru between 1200 and 1470 CE. Its center was located 80 km. north of Lima. The territory occupied the coastal region interspersed with rivers flowing fertile valleys which had the opportunity for agricultural development.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon:**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map, GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:** H 9 in W 12 in.

**Weight:**

**Condition: Original**

**Provenance:** unknown.

**Discussion:** Chancay culture’s textile art was inherited from the Paracas culture (800 BCE-200 CE), which is reflected in the fabrics in which the dead were wrapped. The present textile specimen incorporates a serpentine motif in both the red and gold border and the blue and gold ground motif. Since this fabric was used as an apotropaic vestment for the entombed funerary cloth doll figurine, the serpent motif in the fabric is consistent with the Chancay belief that serpents were protectors of the deceased. Funerary Chancay cloth doll figurines were wrapped in these serpentine textiles and placed around the mummies not only as accompaniment to the afterlife but also as protectors on the journey to the beyond. Some funerary dolls seem to evoke specific individuals who were dear to the deceased. In addition to this single individual in a hammock, the Atlantika collection has a doll with two individuals dressed in ancient Chancay apparel and wrapped in their own hammock to accompany the deceased on their afterlife journey, so multiple individuals could accompany the deceased is desired!

**References:**

Feltham, Jane. 1996. “Chancay.” In *The Dictionary of Art*, Jane Turner, ed. London: MacMillan: 440.

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