A000-AM,C-Taino-Celt-Anthropomorphic-Porphyritic Andesite-1000 CE



AM,C-Taino-Celt-Anthropomorphic-Porphyritic Andesite-1000 CE

**Case No.: 17**

**Accession No.**

**Formal Label:** AM,C-Taino-Celt-Anthropomorphic-Porphyritic Andesite-1000 CE

**Display Description:**

Taino Cemi’s were embodiments of thehidden god, YaYa, who was believed to be an immaterial spirit and whose name is a double superlative of the Arawak *Ia*, “spirit, essence, primary cause of life” or IaIa or YaYa, which can be translated as Spirit of Spirit (C. H. de Goeje, *The Arawak language of Guiana,* Amsterdam, 1928, pp. 45, 142, 204), and whom Father Pané says his “name is a name they do not know” (Pané, Account, ch IX). This is a sophisticated approach to a metaphysical entity that simultaneously exists as a primary cause and is unknowable. The Taíno believe that this entity “is in heaven [an Indo-European, Roman Catholic concept which has no immediate cognate in Taíno] and is immortal and that no one can see it and that it has a mother [which means a genesis] but no beginning” (*Relación* 21). This last statement if put in its stark simplicity it would be: “YaYa has a genesis but no beginning.”

**GPS coordinates:**

**LC Classification: F1909**

**Date or Time Horizon: 1000 CE**

**Geographical Area: Caribbean, Classic Taino Area**

**Map:**



**Caribbean c 1500 after http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/maps/Ciboney-Taino-Carib-map.jpg**

**Cultural Affiliation: Classic Taino**

**Media:**

**Dimensions:**

**Weight:**

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

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