Case 7-A76-AM,S-Peru-Moche-Mask-Nose piece-Copper-Owl Head Effigies

Figs. 1-2. Peru-Moche-Mask-Nosepiece-Copper-Owl Head Effigies.

**Case no.: 7**

**Accession Number: A74**

**Formal Label:**

**Display Description:**

A large copper mask of a male dignitary with a lineal-woven textile cap. He has almond-shaped eyes, a broad nose and fully shaped ears. A wide crown with stepped pyramidal structures on either side in which are eleven “V”-shaped hanging, copper spangles. At the center of the crown is an owl maskette within a lunette. Below the face are an additional five owl maskettes. The figure is wearing large, round ear disks outlined by a ridge in which are eight circular copper sequins surrounding a central boss. A large crescent-shaped nose ornament with twelve copper spangles (three are missing) is attached to the nose. This is an unusual mask in that both sides offer different vantage points of viewing the dignitary: the reverse show him in his regalia with his mouth sewn shut as in death and the obverse shows him in a more natural pose in life without his regalia.

**LC Classification: F3430.1.**

**Date or Time Horizon:** 100 BCE-400 CE

**Geographical Area:** N coastal Peru

**Map, GPS coordinates:**

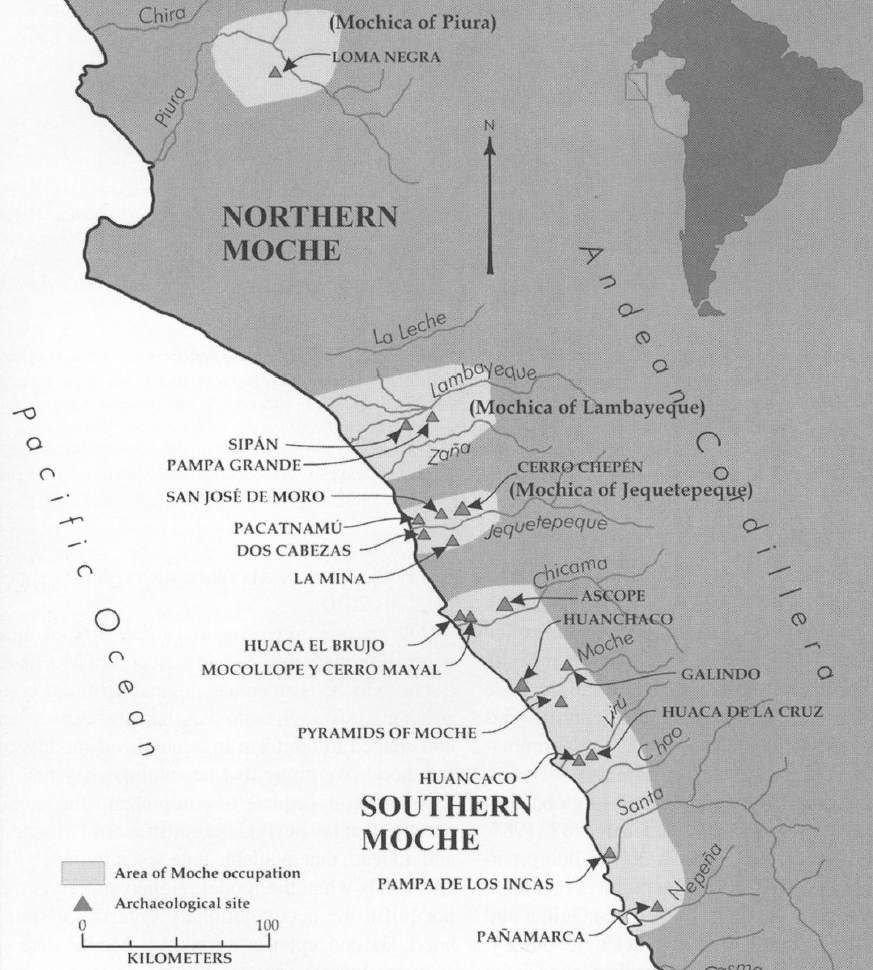


Fig. 3. Map of Moche regions as currently conceived and significant Moche sites. Map courtesy Moro Archaeological program.

**Cultural Affiliation:** Moche (Mochica)

**Medium:** Copper sheet with heavy encrusted verdigris patina. Ancient, cuprite and metallic sediment deposits yields a beautiful olive-green to brown patina on reverse and olive-green on obverse.

**Dimensions:** H226.73 mm, 8.93 in;

**Weight: 357 gm, 12.50 oz.**

**Condition: Original.** Ancient, cuprite and metallic sediment deposits yields a beautiful olive-green to brown patina on reverse and olive-green on obverse.

**Provenance:** Ex. Arte Primitivo, Ex. Howard Nowes Gallery “Art for Eternity”.

AP 15x103 http://muzeiongallery.com/

**Discussion:** Owl maskettes were worn as pendants as the following example illustrates:



Moche, 500 – 800 AD/CE. A small and fine copper mask in the form of the head of an "owl". Mask is circular shaped with typically large eyes and long and narrow pointed beak. Hole appears at the center top portion of mask. Perhaps was worn as a pendant on a necklace. Nice patina with slight losses at extreme top portion. D: 1 3/8". Sits nicely on custom Lucite stand. Joel L. Malter Collection. From <https://p1.liveauctioneers.com/95/13904/428286>

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