

	<p>Object: Ekori</p> <p>Museum: Museum Burg Mylau Burg 1 08499 Mylau +49(0)3765 3822352 kontakt@burgmylau.de</p> <p>Collection: Projekt "Provenienz und Geschichte der Ethnologischen Sammlung Mylau/Reichenbach 2022-2023"</p> <p>Inventory number: V 15169 N 01</p>
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## Description

This object, known as Ekori, is a sacred part of the Ovaherero pre-colonial women's clothing, worn as a type of hair dressing. Basically, Ekori was worn by married women, and held in place by a head band studded with iron beads. Ekori was a solemnity of matrimony object, worn above leather women's bonnets like those exhibited under the inventory numbers V 15168 N 02 & V 15169 N 02, alongside shin ornamental bands such as those exhibited under inventory numbers 60558 and 60559. At weddings the bride was solemnly crowned with an Ekori and a woman's bonnet by her mother to mark the bride's new status as an adult and married woman. Ekori is made of iron beads and animal skin usually derived from game animals of Namibian origin, and supplemented by the animal skin of domestic animals in pastoral communities like the Herero. It is so crafted to seem like and symbolise the horns of a cow, which is an economically and spiritually iconic animal in the Hereroland, e.g. the cow was the Herero's main source of wealth and sustenance. The 19th century missionaries considered the cow horns symbolism as devilish and rejected it, thereby causing the people to switch the material from which Ekori was made, from animal to fabric; hence, its current name, Otjikaiva "headgear made from fabric".

It can be assumed that the collector Ernst Bernhard Kandler brought this and seven other objects from Namibia, where he stayed from 1895 (with some interruptions). Since he was back in Germany from February 1904 at the latest, he must have gotten hold of the clothing and jewelry pieces before then. Thus, it can at least be excluded that the objects originate from the war of extermination of the German colonial power against the Herero. The exact circumstances of the acquisition remain unclear so far (processing status: 2023). The objects from Ernst Bernhard Kandler's donation are still to be classified as sensitive.

## Basic data

Material/Technique: Leather, Iron beads  
Measurements: 43 x 9,5 x 10 cm

## Events

Created	When	Before 1904
	Who	Ovaherero
	Where	Namibia
Owned	When	Until 1904
	Who	Ernst Bernhard Kandler (1865-1924)
	Where	Dresden
Owned	When	Since 1904
	Who	Verein für Naturkunde zu Reichenbach im Vogtland
	Where	Reichenbach im Vogtland
Owned	When	Since 1956
	Who	Museum Burg Mylau
	Where	Mylau
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Herero people
	Where	
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Ernst Bernhard Kandler (1865-1924)
	Where	

## Keywords

- Headdress
- Headgear

## Literature

- Lang, Sabine (2022): Modische Schwergewichte aus Namibia – Traditionelle Kleidung und Schmuck der Hererofrauen. Eine virtuelle Ausstellung.. .
- Museum des Vereins für Naturkunde zu Reichenbach i. V. (1914): Eingänge für das Museum des Vereins für Naturkunde zu Reichenbach i. V. (1914 bis 1926). Reichenbach