

***Sapampe* (Ceremonial Headdress)**

The *sapampe* is a ceremonial crown worn by Ainu men during important religious ceremonies. It is made of thin, woven strips of wood securely tied at the front and back of the head. The base of the headdress is decorated with wood shavings (*kike*), and often with carvings of plants or animals (usually bears or wolves). The sides can be decorated with strips of fabric, and even the teeth or claws of wild animals. A man may keep the same *sapampe* for many years, occasionally adding fresh wood shavings or new adornments.