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An anthropological investigation into the facial preservation of ceremonial tsantsa and commercial shrunken heads

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Appendix 24

SAAWC headdresses

Headdresses were prized adornments among living SAAWC tribesmen for tying back their hair as a fashionable and ceremonial item. The headdresses were designed to circle the crown, leaving the cranial vault uncovered. Recorded fashions include:

- The *etsemat* – a long woven vegetable fibre headband decorated with red and yellow toucan feathers (Harner, 1984; Johns, 2004).
- The *tanguaza* – multiple concentric hoops of rattan are lashed together with string to form a disk-like brim. The outer circumference is decorated with brightly coloured feathers (often red and yellow feathers from the toucan breast) and green jewel beetle wings (Stirling, 1938).
- The *tawása* – used in ceremonial gatherings and is the most brilliant ornament. It consisted of a band made from monkey skin, with multiple plumes or feathers applied. Feathers are taken from the toucan breast, different kinds of parrot, particularly the big macaw, the wild turkey (*Crax paugi*), and various small birds of the Amazon (Karsten, 1935).
- The *tendearma* – a cotton band decorated with multiple flamboyant coloured plumes or feathers, wound round a plait of liana (Karsten, 1935).
- A monkey skin headband, with black fur maintained, of approximately 50mm depth (Stirling, 1938).
- The *tiringsa* – the only headband seldom worn by women during ceremonies. It consisted of a simple circular cotton band worn around the crown (Stirling, 1938).