

A small "mask" of Resin, $1\frac{3}{4}$ " h.

This finely modelled head was made of ~~titan~~ red pine resin. and was probably part of the jewelry of an important person. Originally the head was ~~a~~ most likely transparent and without the corrosion imparted to it by a long time in the earth.

Although of a generic facial type, there may be some clues as to the identity of the personage being depicted here. It is impossible for me to tell if the head was formed in a mold with hot resin or carved. The shape of the crown shows that another material was used ^{for the top of the head} above the typical Aztec headdress. The eyes appear to have been created to receive inlays. There is a significant indentation on the top of the head, perhaps for an ornamental head dress of some kind. Two holes at the temples are provided for attachment.

A significant feature is the large indentation at the back of the mask. One is tempted to believe that this was created to receive a mirror of pyrite or obsidian. If this was true, then a possible interpretation of the head is that it depicts the Supreme God Tezcatlipoca - "God of the Smoking mirror". This interpretation is further supported by the material of which this piece was made - resin.

We know that idols made of resin

have been found in offering caches at the
Temple mounds. Sahagun describes ceremonies
in which such idols of resin, usually Copal
were thrown in to the fire in great numbers
~~at~~ during various ceremonies. Copal, ~~was~~
imported in to Tenochtitlan in great quantities,
was an expensive offering.

The fact that this head was ^{made from}
tree sap, literally the blood of ~~a certain~~ ^{the} tree,
hardened into a substance which could be burned
at any time to produce ^{hard} smoke, and the mirror
that most certainly was attached to the back ^{would}
make this piece a 3 dimensional idrogone of
the God of the Smokes, Mirror - Tzucalipoven.