



Slit Gong (Garamut)

Date

late 18th to 19th Century

Medium

Wood

Description

This exceptionally old slit gong drum (or garamut) was collected in the 1980s at the village of Govermas in the

Blackwater Lakes area of the Middle Sepik region of Papua New Guinea. Because it is carved from a single log of a hardwood also known as garamut, it is extremely heavy and would have been used only in the men's house. Smaller, more common slit gongs are portable and taken to dances and other ceremonies.

Dimensions

19 × 17 × 77 in. (48.3 × 43.2 × 195.6 cm)