



Club (lula Drisia)

Date

19th Century

Medium

Wood

Description

Warfare was a constant feature throughout Fijian history, even into the 19th century, but many weapons' decorations saw more effort than their utility. Even as weapons intended to break bones and kill, clubs filled an equally important symbolic role as items of immense social power in Fiji. These clubs were almost exclusively decorated with intricate carvings or ivory or shell inlays, making them important symbols of status for their owners and valuable exchange items. lula drisia are a variant of the iula tavatava with spherical heads. Despite their name, missile club were sometimes used as melee weapons, but their intended use as a thrown weapon was far deadlier. It was previously thought that the small

triangles at the base of the club were kill tallies, but they in fact mark the passage of feast nights and rituals associated with deceased kin.

Dimensions

15 × 3 × 1 1/8 in. (38.1 × 7.6 × 2.9 cm)