

Basic Detail Report



Digging Stick

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Wosera Abelam

Medium

Wood and pigment

Description

This is a Wosera Abelam yam digging stick (digger) from Papua New Guinea's East Sepik Province made during the 19th or 20th Century. Yams are intrinsic to the culture of the Abelam where examples up to 12 feet in length are methodically grown and ceremonially exchanged. Digging sticks are used during the planting and harvesting processes. The usage of this object is unsubstantiated. Due to the small size of this digging stick it was previously attributed as a women's stick, however, women only rarely take part in the cultivation of yams. It may have

been either a ceremonial digger or a shorter version of one of the spears used to harvest yams.

Dimensions

18 × 1 1/4 × 1 1/2 in. (45.7 cm, 0.003 kg, 3.8 cm)