



Club

Date

19th to 20th Century

Primary Maker

Kanak

Medium

Wood and pigment

Description

Some of the best known clubs from New Caledonia are those that feature stylized bird heads. While those clubs were used for ceremony and prestige, this example was used for warfare. While specifics of its use are not documented, many resources note warriors and chiefs holding both spears and clubs. This club has a distinctive phallic design. Other war clubs from the area are noted to have mushroom or star shaped heads. It is suggested that clubs such as this could be used ceremonially, specifically for chiefly rites. It was common for clubs to feature

designs in a herringbone pattern towards the top of the club. Chunam, a lime-like material from shells and coral, was likely used to color these designs.

Dimensions

32 7/16 × 2 3/4 × 1 3/8 in. (82.4 × 7 × 3.5 cm)