



Club

Date

late 19th Century

Primary Maker

Yangoru Boiken

Medium

Wood

Description

This fighting club comes from the Yangoru Boiken people residing in Papua New Guinea's East Sepik Province. It is carved with powerful human, avian and reptilian designs that morph into one another. The symbols provided both precision and protection to the warrior who used it. War clubs were very common in the islands that made up Melanesia including Vanuatu and New Guinea. Primarily used in combat during tribal conflicts, the use of heavy wood and often stone attached to the end made the clubs highly effective. The war clubs were sometimes used in an

agricultural role. And in addition symbolic war clubs were often created for the sole purpose of being placed beside a deceased warrior as they prepared for the journey into the afterworld.

Dimensions

72 5/8 × 2 1/2 × 1 3/8 in. (184.5 × 6.4 × 3.5 cm)