



some are presented as bride price.

## Dimensions

8 × 2 1/4 × 2 1/2 in. (20.3 × 5.7 × 6.4 cm)

## Betel Nut Mortar (Dap Dap)

### Date

20th Century

### Medium

Wood and lime powder

### Description

This betel nut mortar, vernacular name known as Dap Dap, is from Papua New Guinea and dates to the 20th century. The base of the mortar depicts back-to-back squatting figures with a decorative bowl situated atop their heads. Betel nut, when mixed and chewed with lime powder, becomes a mild stimulant. Chewing betel is a special occasion ritual that occurs at weddings, funerals, births and settlements of disputes; it is present in less formal situations such as a welcoming offer to guests; and on a daily basis as it is habit forming. Beautifully decorated mortars used to crush the nut are found throughout New Guinea. Some are traded widely and