

Basic Detail Report



Dance Adze

Date

early to mid 20th Century

Primary Maker

Yangoru Boiken

Medium

Wood, stone and plant fiber

Description

This ceremonial dance adze was collected in the East Sepik Province of Papua New Guinea. In many Melanesian cultures, adzes were viewed as currency and were commonly used for the purposes of barter and trade. During trade expeditions, adze heads were kept attached or bounded to carved wooden presentation axes. An adze mounted on a ceremonial handle could be valued as an equivalent for a young pig or dog. In the Yangoru Boiken culture, these adzes were crafted and given to young bachelors to use during dance ceremonies. Adzes were

also used in bride price exchange. In some cases, the payment for a bride comprised mostly axes with three or four being ceremonial dance adzes. Bride price adzes were mainly used for the display of the family's wealth and status and never for the intended practice of cutting.

Dimensions

25 × 21 1/4 × 2 3/8 in. (63.5 × 54 × 6 cm)