

# Basic Detail Report

---



## Drum

**Date**

c. 1930

**Primary Maker**

Massim

**Medium**

Wood

**Description**

This drum features the intricate openwork carving typical of the Massim region. The curving “S” shapes may represent stylized frigate birds or other seabirds. Wooden drums were commonly produced in the Massim area in various sizes. This drum likely had a cover made of reptile skin. Lizard skin was commonly used. This drum could possibly be referred to as ginava on Goodenough Island. Local legend suggests that Goodenough Island at one time incorporated drumming into many aspects of daily life. A mythical snake known as mwata left the island because he found the location too noisy due to the constant sound of drumming. It is possible that drumming continues to play this important role.

**Dimensions**

8 × 42 3/4 × 6 1/2 in. (20.3 × 108.6 × 16.5 cm)