



Parrying Shield (Roromaraugi)

Date

early 19th Century

Medium

Wood

Description

Parrying shields such as this could be used both as offensive and defensive weapons. Not only could it parry a thrown shield or other weapon, but it could also be used to inflict a fatal blow to an opponent. As such, this shield is sometimes referred to as a club. It also could be used in ceremonial dances and special occasions. Roromaraugi lent social status to its owner or wielder, individuals who were seen as both prestigious and brave within the community. Two holes at the very top outer edge of blade at one time held tassels or other decoration.

Dimensions

50 × 19 3/4 × 1 1/2 in. (127 × 50.2 × 3.8 cm)