

Basic Detail Report



Knife

Date

mid 19th - early 20th Century

Primary Maker

Māori

Medium

Wood and shell

Description

This knife has a blade of wood. Its delicate nature and construction makes it unlikely that it was actually made for use. Lodin (donor) noted that this piece is “modern,” and it is likely that it was made for tourist or non- Maōri consumption. The carving and decoration on its handle are consistent with Maōri design motifs. New Zealand has a burgeoning tourism industry that began in the mid to late 19th and 20th Centuries. A souvenir market of Maōri-style items and Maōri imagery developed in tandem with tourism and many items such as this piece were sold to visitors from around the world.

Dimensions

14 1/8 × 1 7/8 × 1/2 in. (35.9 × 4.8 × 1.3 cm)