



Club

Date

mid 19th - early 20th Century

Medium

Wood, hair and pigment

Description

In contrast to Vanuatu's fatal hardwood clubs, this club was intentionally made to be lightweight. Its purpose was to parry oncoming arrows. The conical point at the top of the club was strategically crafted to suit this purpose and the club's wielder used great skill to divert such oncoming arrows. The braided hair at the bottom of the club is human. Coconut fiber was also used, but with much less frequency than hair. This type of club is noted to be decorated with two narrow grooves that are painted red. This piece features more than two grooves, all of which are painted or bear the remnants of pigment. Clubs of this type are attributed to both the northern and southern portions of Pentecost Island. A similar type of club from this island is almost identical in form. While the bottom of the club head also flares out, it has spiked rather than rounded edges.

Dimensions

42 1/2 × 3 × 2 1/2 in. (108 × 7.6 × 6.4 cm)