

Basic Detail Report



Pipe

Date
early 20th Century

Primary Maker
Tlingit

Medium

Wood, paint and metal

Description

Tlingit pipes carved for ceremonial occasions were often made from cut-up parts of trade guns. The gun stock was carved with figures and fitted with the bowl of the pipe, which was cut from the gun barrel. The gun stock was carved with figures and fitted with the bowl of the pipe, which was cut from the gun barrel. Some Tlingit pipes retain the original shape of the gun stock. The kinds of objects that were being traded by their owners and makers reflect both the economic needs of the sellers and the interests of the buyers. Shamanism and ceremonialism were being actively discouraged by missionaries, settlers, and government officials, while the production of objects for sale that portrayed these very traditional pursuits (objects such as this one) was encouraged. Thus, both traditional ceremonial materials and new objects made for sale were easily acquired in the late 19th century. Worn and used tools, bowls, and spoons were traded away and replaced with commercial metal, glass, and ceramic wares.

Dimensions

4 1/4 × 5 7/8 × 13 1/2 in. (10.8 × 14.9 × 34.3 cm)