



Powder Horn (Parpanggalahan)

Date

late 19th Century

Primary Maker

Batak

Medium

Wood, string and glass beads

Description

This is a skeuomorphic gun powder horn, also known as a parpanggalahan, originating from the Batak of Indonesia. Prior to colonial control, most Batak homes kept a store of gunpowder for use with their muzzle-loaded weapons. Village chiefs could afford to carry small supplies of gunpowder with them in these horns, which were traditionally made with water buffalo horn but we see here was carved in wood to appear to be made out of buffalo horn.

Dimensions

13 1/2 × 7 1/2 × 2 in. (34.3 × 19.1 × 5.1 cm) Without handle: 13 1/2 × 3 1/4 × 2 in. (34.3 × 8.3 × 5.1 cm)