

Basic Detail Report



Club (Knobkerrie)

Date
early to mid 20th Century

Medium
Wood

Description

This club is most likely a knobkerrie, a generic club archetype that is seen throughout Southern and Eastern Africa with a variety of uses and meanings, even as an identifier or as bride price. The implications of knobkerrie also vary. The Wawanga and similar groups usually bury people within a hut, however, if the person dies from wounds inflicted by a knobkerrie, they are buried outside. Knobkerries are typically held by men and are a symbol of manhood. Except on the rare occasion a knobkerrie has a stone head, they are almost always made of wood, such as in this example. The word Afrikaans and Nam, and literally translates to ‘stick with a ball at its end.’ It has different names in different languages: in Kikuyu it is called njoguma, in Kamba it is called nzoma, and in Teita it is called rungu.

Dimensions
18 7/8 × 1 3/4 × 3 1/4 in. (47.9 × 4.4 × 8.3 cm)