



Axe Head Currency

Date

early to mid 20th Century

Primary Maker

Massim

Medium

Stone

Description

Massim presentation axe blades, used in trade and exchange, are extremely valuable. The ends of the blade are deliberately chipped to symbolize their mourning for the death of a deceased person. They are kept attached to carved wooden presentation axes and can be used as barter and trade items within the larger kula trade ring. The greenstone used to create the blades is quarried on Woodlark Island. From there, the unfinished blades travel to other locations for polishing.

Dimensions

4 1/8 × 2 3/4 × 1/4 in. (10.5 × 7 × 0.6 cm)