



## Paddle Finial

### Date

20th Century

### Primary Maker

Bosman

### Medium

Wood

### Description

Canoe paddles with decorated anthropomorphic finial elements were used to navigate bodies of water surrounding the Sepik River. This specific example is almost certainly from the Ramu River Delta where figures with this distinctive hooked nose and tall conical section on top are seen. Here figures also existed as independent charms. Despite having certain animal characteristics, these finial elements tended to represent people, most often mythological ancestors.

### Dimensions

6 5/8 × 1 3/8 × 1 3/8 in. (16.8 × 3.5 × 3.5 cm) In stand: 7 3/4 × 1 1/2 × 1 1/2 in. (19.7 × 3.8 × 3.8 cm)