

Basic Detail Report



Club (Knobkerrie)

Date

20th Century

Medium

Wood and metal

Description

Knobkerrie clubs are attributed to over 120 different cultural groups in Tanzania and more cultures spanning Eastern and Southern Africa. The word knobkerry literally translates to ‘stick with a ball at its end.’ Scholars suggest that their uses were varied, but functioned as weapons, prestige objects, forms of identification, and as bride price. Because they are symbols of manhood the clubs are most often, if not always, held by men. Knobkerries are almost always made of wood, but few rare examples feature heads made of stone or have inclusions of metal or beads.

Dimensions

18 1/2 × 1 3/4 × 1 1/2 in. (47 × 4.4 × 3.8 cm)