

Basic Detail Report



Club (Kila)

Date

20th Century

Medium

Wood

Description

This club, the vernacular name for which is kila, originates from the Solomon Islands, likely from Malaita Island, and it was collected during a field expedition in 2004. One of many club forms from Malaita Island, the kila is a long, narrow club with a diamond-pointed head. In the northern regions of Malaita, some kila are adorned with a braided wrapping made of orchid vine and palm fiber which covers the lower three quarters of the club, but this one is unadorned. Although almost all clubs in Melanesia are commonly wielded by men, there is some evidence passed down through Malaitan oral tradition which describes a similar club carried by women for protection, and a kila is

said to have been used as a walking stick by a powerful ancestress, likely around the 17th or 18th century. War clubs were very common in the islands that make up Melanesia, including the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, and New Guinea. Primarily wielded in tribal conflicts, clubs made of heavy wood and occasionally fitted with stone heads were highly effective bludgeoning tools. War clubs had other uses too. They could be employed in agriculture and symbolic war clubs were often created for the sole purpose of being placed beside a deceased warrior as they prepared for the journey into the afterworld.

Dimensions

41 1/8 × 2 3/4 × 1 5/8 in. (104.5 × 7 × 4.1 cm)