

Basic Detail Report



Club or Staff

Date

20th Century

Primary Maker

Abelam

Medium

Wood

Description

Based on the distinct incised designs, this object was most likely made by the Abelam people in Papua New Guinea's Sepik River region. However, its function is less than clear. It is likely a club, but may be a staff or other tool. 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

43 × 1 5/8 × 1 1/4 in. (109.2 × 4.1 × 3.2 cm)