



## Ceremonial Adze

### Date

19th to early 20th Century

### Medium

Wood, stone, and plant fiber

### Description

Adzes from Mangaia in the Cook Islands are uniquely characterized by their triangular bindings, repeated geometric notches, and, in many cases, having a bulky rectangular haft that would have precluded their use as tools for woodcarving. Though this adze has a narrower haft, it too would likely have been used only for ceremonial purposes or as a trade good. Traditional Mangaia belief holds that the creation of adzes is a sacred activity taught to humans by the gods.

### Dimensions

24 × 8 in. (61 × 20.3 cm)