



Club

Date

c. 1840-1850

Primary Maker

Oto

Medium

Maple, brass tacks, pigment

Description

This finely carved ball-headed club was a traditional weapon used in hand-to-hand combat. With the introduction of firearms, clubs were replaced as the primary weapon, but their symbolic power continued. The club's owner received spiritual protection from the stylized long-tailed animal, possibly an otter, which is

poised at the top of the club. Long-tailed beings resided in watery depths and are associated with precious metals that are found there. The brass tacks that subtly define the club likely refer to the wealth and power that metal symbolized for Woodlands and Plains Indians.

Dimensions

Overall: 3 1/4 × 6 1/2 × 26 in. (8.3 × 16.5 × 66 cm)