

Basic Detail Report



Club

Date

1800-1830

Primary Maker

Coast Tsimshian

Medium

Caribou or elk antler

Description

A unique type of war club was made in the northern British Columbia region, apparently since ancient times. Perhaps originating among the Athapaskan peoples, such club forms were made by those who traditionally hunted caribou. The intriguing and formidable hand weapon utilized the tines of the strong and broadly spreading antlers of a male elk or caribou, and could be engraved with the owner's family history. In many of these weapons, an asymmetrical head finial has been incorporated into the design, the shape often adapted from the antler. In this one, the head of a bird, possibly a raven, turns off to one side so that it looks at you out of one eye, as a bird often will.

Dimensions

Overall: 5 × 1 × 16 1/2 in. (12.7 × 2.5 × 41.9 cm)