



Raven Rattle

Date

c. 1850-1875

Medium

Wood with paint

Description

Wood rattle carved on all sides with painted decoration in black, red and blue-green. Yehl, the raven, was the chief mythological figure of the Northwest Coast. The bird figure on the belly area is hawk, in this instance shown in association with a frog. More commonly the frog is shown on the top, held in the beak of the kingfisher, transferring power to the reclining human. Elihu Root was presented with the rattle as a state gift, likely during his service as U.S. Secretary of War between 1899 and 1904, or U.S. Secretary of State between 1905 and 1909.

Dimensions

Overall: 13 x 4 1/2 x 5 in. (33 x 11.4 x 12.7 cm)