



Ballgame Palma

Date

ca. 600-900

Primary Maker

Maya (archaeological culture)

Medium

volcanic stone

Description

The palma is one of three types of stone sculpture associated with the Maya ballgame. It generally has a thick triangular base and is notched at one end. The use of the palma is uncertain, but figurines of ballplayers in full regalia show the palma placed on an edge of the yoke. It is also possible that it served as a moveable marker during the ballgame. This example has been decorated with a King Vulture which links it to the iconography of Costa Rica. The palma is a development of Late Classic

Veracruz which is seldom found outside of the region.

Dimensions

Overall: 9 3/8 x 4 7/8 x 5 1/8 in. (23.8 x 12.4 x 13 cm)