

Basic Detail Report



Ceremonial Axe

Date

1500s-1800s

Primary Maker

Deccan

Medium

steel and iron

Description

Perhaps reworked from a 16th c. Deccan mace, though the hilt type resembles a pulwar. Finely crafted iron hilt of distinctive South Indian style with short crossguard terminating in monster (Makara?) heads curving toward circular shaft. Knuckle guard similarly treated. Bulbous grip with bowl-shaped pommel with flat disk on end supporting oblate terminal with pierced cord ring. Brazed copper repair on the grip. Shaft terminates in 2 blades. Crescentic blade with sawtooth cuts opposite curve, & ending in small monster heads opposed by curved peacock. Blade shows signs of reworking and reduction, perhaps due to damage at edge. This component and the adjacent fittings seem newer than the hilt and shaft, but older than the distal blade. At distal end is a single-edged blade, slightly curved, widening at center, terminating in point on back edge, perhaps adapted from an ayudha katti (see comparative example in digital file). This blade seems to be of less quality than the rest of the object, and the attachment point is not well executed; of the two securing rivets, the lower one appears to be broken inside.

Dimensions

92 cm (36 1/4 in.), 5 lb, 2 oz (weight)