



### **Marquesas Islands Ivi Po'o**

A large ivi po'o (a form of slider or toggle), adorned with a deified ancestor or Tiki. Carved in a powerful style, this ivi po'o was made from an unusually large leg bone (femur or tibia) from a tall ancestor. The corners of the lips are underlined by a minute tattoo motif in relief on each side. A square tattoo pattern is deeply etched on the back of the head. The shoulders are underlined with an incised line and the spine is indicated by a vertical carved hollow oval. Delicately carved hands are placed on the belly on either side of the protruding navel. The inside of the bone cylinder is partially smoothed by friction. The ears are superbly rendered in the form of double spirals. The tall haughty face is of unusual size and serenity. Marquesas Islands, Polynesia. Human bone. 4.2 x 2.7 x 2.9 cm. 19th century.

### **Literature:**

Pub. Carl Schmitz, *Oceanic Art Myth, Man, and South Seas*, Abrams, New York, 1969, pl. 250 (right).