



Fiji Pottery Water Vessel

A very fine and early pottery water vessel, or Saqa Tabua in the form of the sacred spermwhale tooth, the *tabua*. This form of water bottle is made from *qe*le (clay) with a looped *Wa ni Tabua* (handle). The outer surface coated with *makadre* (resin from the Dakua tree) just after baking which produces the glossy glaze. One orifice and an *i gaga* (pouring spout). *Somuna* (decorative spots of applied *qe*le) decorate the handle and across the top and waist of the container. Incisions decorate the upper areas of the container.

Fiji islands, Western Polynesia.

Low fired clay and vegetal resin.

16,3 cm.

19th century.

Literature:

See similar examples in the Fiji Museum, Suva, the Smithsonian Institute, The Peabody Museum, Harvard, The Museum of Anthropology and Archeology, Cambridge, Musée d'Ethnographie, Geneva, and the Auckland War Memorial Museum.