



Musical instrument (hasapi)

Not on display

Title/Description: Musical instrument (hasapi)

Object Type: Musical instrument

Materials: Wood

Measurements: l. 686 x w. 72 x h. 98 mm

Accession Number: 798

Historic Period: 19th/early 20th century

Production Place: Oceania, Pacific, Sumatra

Cultural Group: Batak, Toba

The Batak developed a distinctive two-stringed musical instrument (*hasapi*), generally referred to as a lute. *Hasapi* usually have a seated figure as a terminal, here wearing an elaborate turban, and also a projection beneath the resonating chamber, which in this case takes the form of an inverted face.

The instrument is carved from a single piece of wood except for the sound board, which is a replacement for the original. The back of the resonating chamber has an oval aperture and both ends of the neck have pierced scrolls which were formerly linked by a chain or cord. The two holes beneath the figure are for string-tightening pegs.

Steven Hooper, 1997

Entry taken from *Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Vol. 2: Pacific, African and Native North American Art*, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997) pp. 84-85.
