Apache fiddle

Date

1900 ca.

Primary Maker

Mescalero Apache Indian

Description

1 string material: vegetal stalk, agave (body); wood (peg and bridge); twine (single string); sinew (string rest below peg) configuration: section of vegetal stalk (agave) split, hollowed, except for the ends, and reassembled, carved in three integral, cylindrical sections; held together with sinew wrapping below peg, as well as four, laterally-inserted, metal tacks, two in upper end, two in lower end peg: hand-carved, cylindrical peg; flattened, rectangular end forms handle of peg; inserted laterally through holes carved through vegetal stalk bridge: hand-carved, rectangular block of wood, resting on the long side; two grooves carved into bridge, string rests in one; bridge straddles split in vegetal stalk string: twine string, tied and wrapped around peg, passing through irregularly carved triangular opening; attached at opposite end to metal tack driven into end of stalk, alongside the split sound holes: two small, mismatched rhomboid forms carved at upper end of middle cylindrical sections, on split; one small, severely mismatched rhomboid form at upper end of lower cylindrical section, on split; one large, matched rhomboid form on lower end of lower cylindrical section, on split adornment: two grooves carved into upper cylinder of stalk, above peg, with bands of green paint; two grooves carved into lower cylinder of stalk with bands of green paint

Dimensions

length (overall): 374.2 mm (14.72 in) upper cylinder: length: 58.2 mm (2.3 in) diameter: 48 mm (1.89 in) middle cylinder: length: 187 mm (7.4 in) diameter: 39.7 mm (1.6 in) widening to 42.5 mm (1.7 in) lower cylinder: length: 129 mm (5.1 in) diameter: 52.5 mm (2.06 in) widening to 53.5 mm (2.1 in) string length (from where string leaves vegetal stalk body to bridge): 240 mm (9.45 in) bow string length: 450 mm (17.71 in)