

SA717310

**Tribal Canoe Paddle Douala
Duala Trade Painted
Ceremonial Reckitts Blue
Carved**

Price

GBP 575

| USD \$784 | EUR 671

Item Reference: SA717310

Date of manufacture: 1900

Description

Large heavy painted hardwood tribal canoe paddle, origin Douala / Duala Cameroon. The dense fine grained deep patinated glossy brown wood painted with fine geometric patterns. All one piece of wood, the front of the blade is flat the back curved. Tool marks and rippling to the wood's surface shows hand planing. Based on colour and condition I would date this piece to pre 1900 Under the geometric painting which is doubtless of some age are traces of previous paint, possibly Reckitts laundry blue, traded or adopted from early settlers to make an ultramarine paint. Weight 1940 grams, length 5' or 1530mm Hard strong timber more akin to that used in the making of clubs, the thick large wide leaf shaped paddle end seems too cumbersome for a canoe paddle, probably ceremonial.

Internal Ref: 170923

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