

Thai chess piece

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.: **62.365.1** 

Type: **bone objects; toys and models; ivory carving**

Date of production: **19th century**

Place of production: **Thailand (Siam), Southeast Asia**

Materials/Technique
s: **ivory, carved**

Dimensions: **height: 4.4 cm
width: 2.6 cm
diameter: 2.7 cm
tömeg: 0.1 kg**

Piece of an incomplete Thai chess set. Thai chess ('makruk') is a very popular game, similar to chess in Europe, also played with sixteen to sixteen pieces. There are strong similarities in both the rules and the appearance of the pieces; minor differences include the naming of the queen (Thai: 'met', meaning seed), the rook ('ruea', meaning ship) or the pawn (Thai: 'bia', meaning kauri snail). The latter comes from the fact that traditionally these tiny shells were used as pawns in the game.

