

Thai chess piece

Southeast Asian Collection

Accession Nr.:	62.365.7 
Type:	bone objects; toys and models; ivory carving
Date of production:	19th century
Place of production:	Thailand (Siam), Southeast Asia
Materials/Techniques:	ivory, carved
Dimensions:	height: 3.4 cm diameter: 2 cm tömeg: 0.1 cm

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.

