

Ceremonial Ancestor Spirit Paddle, Papua New Guinea.

The Sawos people of the Middle Sepik River region of New Guinea are divided into a number of clans, each of which is associated with specific ancestors and totemic species.

Wooden figures such as this paddle represent a category of powerful and dangerous ancestral beings called wan or waken and each figure owned by a specific clan is named for an important clan ancestor. This paddle is coloured using ochres

These ancestral and totemic beings are represented by wooden carvings kept in the men's ceremonial houses.

Height – 71 cm Width – 15 cm Depth – 2 cm

