WEAPONS & WARRIORS
Set of three knives from Sudan. The sheath and middle knife’s handle is made from crocodile.
Object: Chinese Hook Sword
Catalog Number: AE 3601
Donor: C. A. Ficke

Qing Dynasty hook sword. Hook swords were designed to deflect an opponent’s weapons.
The Nazca culture flourished from 100 BCE to 800 CE along the southern coast of Peru. The culture produced an abundance of visual images of decapitations with warriors holding their weapons. Decapitated heads may have been considered trophies.
Catchpole, Tokugawa Dynasty (18th – 19th century). The pole could be extended by a policeman to catch the loosely fitting garments of a fleeing criminal.
Shield designs were given to Native American men through their dreams or vision quests. The design revealed the identity of the warriors’ spiritual protector.
Samoans made a variety of weapons including axes, maces, clubs and spears from pau wood. The spear, shown here, is called the tala-o- le-lo, meaning “the spine of the lo fish.” The end of this spear has multiple barbs cut into the wooden shaft, resembling the spine of fish.

Object: Samoan Spear
Catalog Number: AE 5972
Donor: Charles Edward Russell

Background image: http://i.ebayimg.com/t/Samoan-Red-Tattoo-Poly-Cotton-Fabric-Print-60
Aztec Terracotta Stamps. Recent studies suggest that these stamps were used to transfer tattoo designs onto skin. Typically, male warriors would receive the tattoos as a form of protection before battle.
China has been producing bronze artifacts since 1,500 BCE. This piece is a “ge” or dagger ax. The hole at the top of the dagger was used to lash the blade to a handle. Once attached to a handle, the blade could be used like an ax.
Maasai shield, Kenya (late 1800s /early 1900s). The shield is made from animal hide stretched across a wooden frame and bound with strips of leather. The back of the shield has a strip of wood, supported with leather straps, with a wooden hand grip in the center. Maasai warriors are in charge of protecting livestock from predators and enemies.
Bone Dagger, New Guinea. The Asmat of New Guinea make daggers from the bones of animals. This dagger is made from the thigh bone of the cassowary, a large ostrich-like bird. Weapons made from animal bones are used for hunting. Human bone daggers are made from slain enemies or deceased relatives and are worn by warriors for ceremonial purposes.
Sword and ox bone sheath, Japan, c. 1900 (for the tourist trade). The sheath is made of five sections of bone pieced together. It is made from an ox tibia, or shin bone, which is less dense than ivory.