

A

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

16-24

ENT.

No 8112

Country

Venezuela

1-3

People

Locality

Name

Salvatans - blow guns - three

Collection

R. Welles Jr.

Where Placed

Hall 16

Notes

Sight of blow gun loose. repaired  
Made of a small tree, covered with the bark of a tree.

Acc. 35

exh. 1918

The blow-gun is the typical hunting weapon of South America. While found in some other places, it probably reaches its highest development among the tribes, of the Amazon and Orinoco. Even here the exact type varies from tribe to tribe, the specimens here shown being among the best made. They are used for hunting birds and monkeys in trees and for this purpose are superior to firearms, as they are noiseless and the game is not frightened. The range is fifty feet or more and the aim very accurate.

Blow-guns vary from nine to fifteen feet in length. They are made of an inner and an outer section and each section is probably made in two pieces, so that the inner part of the tube may be well smoothed. These parts are accurately fitted together and wrapped throughout with spiral wrapping of bark. A wooden mouthpiece is fitted at one end so that the breath may be efficiently expelled, and the other end is wrapped with cord. In the center of a sight is attached which is made of the tusk of a bear affixed with pitch. The local name for the blow-gun is salvatan.

Cont. on card 8114 (16-25)

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