



Roller Stamp

Date
ca. 1-700

Primary Maker
Greater Nicoya

Medium
pottery

Description
Throughout ancient Mesoamerica ceramic stamps were used to decorate cloth, clay, and especially human skin.

This roller stamp with a wavy design could have been used to create ink or pigment-based body decorations seen on ceramic figurines from this region. Using red pigment from the annatto fruit and black pigment from the guaitil fruit, mixed with grease or other adhesive, the colors could have been rolled onto the body in preparation for ritual or to indicate group or clan identity.

Dimensions
Overall: 1 1/8 x 1 1/2 in. (2.9 x 3.8 cm)