Chamorro Traditional Tools

Peter Toves
• History
  – Metal
  – Blacksmithing
• Basics for Blacksmithing
  – Tools
  – Materials
• Description of traditional Chamorro tools
History

• Pre-Spanish arrival
  – Shell and stone tools

• Spanish arrival
  – Metal replaces shell and stone tools

• American arrival
  – Increase in supplies
  – Increase in blacksmithing
  – Later decline of blacksmiths
Chamorro Blacksmithing Today

• Nearly became a lost art
• Master Blacksmith
  Joaquin ‘Jack’ Lujan
  – National Fellowship
    Heritage Award from NEA
• Apprenticeship program
Tools and Materials

- Forge and fuel
- Anvil and hammer
- High to medium carbon steel
Chamorro Tools

- Machete
- Fosinos (Hoe)
- Soh’so (Coconut extractor)
- Kamyo (Coconut grater)
- Si’i (Weaving Tool)
Machete

- All purpose cutting tool
  - Clearing land
  - Harvesting
  - Slaughtering and butchering
  - Kitchen purposes
Fosinos

- Push/Thrust hoe
- Clear land
- Cultivation
Soh’so (Coconut extractor)

- Used to remove coconut meat from the shell
  - Livestock feed
  - Copra
Kamyo (Coconut grater)

- Pronounced Kam-zu
- Shred coconut meat from the shell
  - Coconut milk
  - Coconut oil
  - Feed for livestock

http://guamfirehousecook.blogspot.com/2011/05/making-coconut-milk.html
Si’i (Weaving tool)

• Pandanus leaves
  – Baskets
  – Mats
  – Hats
Closing

- Chamorro traditional tools were once important for survival
- They are as useful today as they were yesteryear
- The tradition is still maintained by a handful of blacksmiths trained by Master blacksmith Jack Lujan
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