Case 17-AM,C-Taino-Cemi Torch

Taino cemi stone figure that appears to have been a torch. It was brought back from the Dominican Republic in the 1960's.  This cemi figure has a depression on the top which has burn marks, the other end has a depression but no burn marks. In keeping with Taino cosmology this torch may have been used in above ground ceremonies when the torch would have been used in its normal upright position. When it may have been used in below ground ceremonies in caves, the torch would have been inverted. However, since the torch does not appear to have been used in the latter case, it probably was used only in above ground ceremonies associated with the living. The size is approximately 10" x 5 1/4" x 3 1/2"  The weight is almost six pounds.



