

Basic Detail Report



Manilla

Date

collected 1960-1973

Primary Maker

Artist Unknown

Medium

copper lead alloy

Description

Cast in several standard weights, the European-produced manilla was a trade currency used in West Africa from the late 1400s to the early 1900s. It is not clear why the C-form was used, but the name derives from the Portuguese word for "hand." In the Benin Kingdom, manillas were melted and cast into works of art.

Dimensions

Overall: $\frac{3}{4}$ x $2\frac{3}{8}$ x $2\frac{3}{8}$ in. (1.9 x 6 x 6 cm)