



Bird of Prophecy Idiophone

Date

19th century

Primary Maker

Benin Kingdom

Medium

bronze

Description

Bird of Prophecy idiophone or clapper used by titleholders in the annual court festival known as Ugie Oro. The Bird of Prophecy refers to King Esigie who, in the 16th century, ignored the warnings of his diviners to heed the "bird that cries disaster" and triumphed over his enemies, the Igala. That victory demonstrated the power of Benin kings over all forces, human and supernatural.

Dimensions

Overall: 13 1/2 x 3 1/2 x 6 1/2 in. (34.3 x 8.9 x 16.5 cm)