

# Basic Detail Report

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## 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 Portugese word for "hand." In the Benin Kingdom, manillas were melted and cast into works of art.

**Dimensions**

Overall: 3/4 x 2 3/8 x 2 1/4 in. (1.9 x 6 x 5.7 cm)