

Basic Detail Report



Door Lock

Date

19th to 20th century

Primary Maker

Dogon people

Medium

wood and iron

Description

This is a characteristic Islamic type of lock used throughout North Africa and the Sudan to secure the door of a granary and shutters or doors of other buildings. It consists of a vertical element typically carved to suggest a human or animal figure, and a horizontal bar with a

groove on the back into which a wooden fork-like “key” can be inserted. The prongs of the key lift iron pegs that fall into holes in the horizontal beam and secure the lock. The vertical part of the lock is mounted on the left side of the door and the horizontal beam slides into a hole in the doorjamb.

Dimensions

Overall: 8 3/4 x 7 1/4 x 1 3/4 in. (22.2 x 18.4 x 4.4 cm)