



**DESCRIPTION**

These pieces are stylized in a penannular manne. They were the main form of currency in West Africa, though occasionally they were worn or displayed as ornamentation. Forged from copper (aptly named the "red gold" of Africa) by the Portuguese, they were commissioned in order to trade with the tribes and kingdoms that explorers came across. The name manilla comes from the Spanish word for bracelet, manella. Manilla were the first general purpose currency utilized in West Africa and had a wide range of uses from purchases at the market, part of a dowry, and for services. Detailed decorative designs have been etched into this particular piece in order to differentiate it between different regions in which it was traded. The rich coloring is wholly evident on this piece, and the slight hooks at the base are purely decorative.

**DETAILS**

- Culture: Ibo People
- Geography: Nigeria
- Circa: Mid to Late 17th Century
- Size: 14"W x 14"H x 1.5"D
- Weight: Approximately 4 LBS
- Materials: Copper

**LIST PRICING**

- XTT0059.....00902