



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. The rounded nature of this manilla piece identifies its creators as one of British origin. The variation and discoloration is attributed to the heavy use of this currency by a wide range of traders. Smaller pieces like this were more easily created and carried than their larger counterparts.

DETAILS

- Culture: Ibo People
- Geography: Nigeria
- Circa: Mid to Late 17th Century
- Size: 7"W x 5"H x 1"D
- Weight: Approximately 3 LBS
- Materials: Copper

LIST PRICING

- XTT0062.....1205