



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. Oxidation to the copper has created green hues in this piece. Theommel near the bottom creates the image of a blade with the curvature of the currency along with the sharp angle in which it ends expanding that belief.

DETAILS

- Culture: Yoruba People
- Geography: Nigeria
- Circa: Mid to Late 17th Century
- Size: 13"W x 12"H x 1.5"D
- Weight: Approximately 4 LBS
- Materials: Copper

LIST PRICING

- XTT0060.....00902