

Basic Detail Report



Bracelet Currency

Date
19th Century

Primary Maker
Djenne

Medium
Bronze

Description

Djenné was a prosperous center for trading, along with Timbuktu between 15th and 17th centuries. Gold, salt and slaves were all goods coming to and fro Djenné. However, when the Portuguese established trading routes on the Western African coast and hindered the need for the sub-Saharan trade route, Djenné fell into a decline. Still, Djenné is remembered as a key post for trading that flourished in Islamic scholarship. Djenné’s history as a trading post is reflected in the people’s culture and currency. Trading hubs become centers for cultural diffusion and this currency piece testifies to the fact. Most West African currency pieces that come in the form of a bangle can be bulky and heavy for the person wearing the item. The blacksmiths build the extravagant design of the currency into the object, usually with an un-engraved finish. This piece, however, is light with a thin slit and slightly flattened faces.

Dimensions

Overall: 1/4 x 2 7/8 in. (0.6 x 7.3 cm)