

Basic Detail Report



Bracelet Currency

Date

19th Century

Medium

Bronze

Description

Manillas are a West African currency form which originally derived from copper bracelets or anklets. In the 15th

Century Portuguese traders began a five century-long practice of commissioning large quantities of manillas in Europe to trade in countries such as Nigeria for trade goods such as ivory, spices, palm oil and slaves. This currency was made in the 19th Century when the production of manillas had mostly shifted to Birmingham, England and manillas had a highly regularized shape and metal content (70% brass and 30% lead on average).

Dimensions

Overall: 3/8 x 3 1/4 in. (1 x 8.3 cm)