

# African miniatures - the goldweights of the Ashanti

Praeger, 1967. - Ashanti Goldweights



Description: -

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Sociology.

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## Akan goldweights

The fame of these objects derives from a legend asserting that a woman who has worn one will give birth to a particularly beautiful daughter. Together they attest to the importance of gold to the Asante economy. A suspension loop shows how it was attached to a sword or stool of state throne.

## Ashanti/Asante Gold Dust Weights

CATALOGUE NOTE Le couvercle des kuduo - utilisés par les Akan comme contenants sacrés, remplis d'offrandes destinées aux divinités et aux ancêtres - est traditionnellement orné de figurines, illustrant le plus souvent des proverbes. Principally, small weights were used to weigh gold dust which became the currency used to settle everyday transactions.

## 42 Ashanti Goldweights (Mrammuo) ideas

The success of the Ashanti Empire depended on the trade in gold not only with Europeans at the coast but also with the Muslim north. Later vessels like this example often incorporate openwork bases and feature figurative compositions on their lids.

## African Goldweights: Miniature Sculptures from Ghana 1400

Text is clean, tight and unmarked. These weights were not boring discs or cubes though... the Akan goldweights were beautifully ornate miniatures of people, animals, and symbols, crafted through that lost wax technique I described in the post on.

## Asante Gold

Under the military leadership of the Asantehene Asante leader Osei Tutu, Asante State grew out of a group of smaller states to become a centralised hierarchical kingdom.

## Antique African Gold Weights (25)

These weights weigh from 4. Goldweight, Asante Ashanti, Ghana, 19th century.

### **Victoria and Albert Museum**

The museum has benefitted greatly from the advice on content and language from Professor Olivette Otele, Professor of History at Bath Spa University and Vice-President of the Royal Historical Society, S. Goldweights are highly visual and easily portable, making them popular with visitors to Ghana, including colonial officers, who brought them back to Britain and later donated them to museums.

### **African Goldweights: Miniature Sculptures from Ghana 1400**

European interest in the region, initially in gold and then in enslaved Africans, brought about great changes, not least the creation of the British Gold Coast Colony in 1874. Other equipment included shovels for scooping up gold dust, spoons for lifting gold dust from the shovel and putting it on the scales and boxes for storing gold dust. Asante weavers developed a style of weaving of great technical mastery, incorporating imported silk.

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