A000-Afr-Nigeria-Benin-Edo Peoples-Portrait Head of an Oba-Bronze-16th c





Figs. 1-3.

Case No.: 6

**Accession No.**

**Formal Label:** Afr-Nigeria-Benin-Edo Peoples-Portrait Head of an Oba-Bronze-16th c

**Display Description:**

This is a very complex bronze head from the Edo people. This stylized portrait head depicts a 16th century Oba royal personage at Benin wearing a sophisticated headdress and a distinctive collar reserved for royalty. A complex net of coral beads adorns the head. A high collar, known as *odigba*, also of coral beads reaches the chin.  This portrait accurately depicts the four vertical keloids or scarifications that extend over the eye ridge. Below the eyes are seven circular tattoos. A serpent is placed on the base at the front as a symbol of power. An elephant's tusk would have been placed in the hole in the center of the head so that the natural curve of the tusk would allow it to rest against a wall.

**LC Classification:**

**Date or Time Horizon: 19th c**

**Geographical Area:**

**Map:**





http://www.derreisefuehrer.com/a/main/8f350f44-1a25-476a-9457-1c431cc20c8b/41AF38DE-7933-11DB-9FB2-8F4527C0BFE9/4DC6B502-7933-11DB-8DAC-994FBF05B2D8.gif

**GPS coordinates:**

**Cultural Affiliation:**

**Medium: bronze**

**Weight: 11.13 lbs**

**Dimensions:** 14.173 inches;

**Condition:**

**Provenance:**

**Discussion:**

**References:**

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