



NIGERIAN DOUBLE GONG CURRENCY

\$980

c. 1950 • Nigeria • Iron • Collection #CAA1121

W: 12.25" D: 0.25" H: 17.75"

Like many pieces of traditional African metalwork, this sculptural iron-wrought double gong served multiple purposes. It was a ceremonial instrument, status symbol, and traded as currency. Incorporating a range of metalwork motifs, likely as a result of overlapping cultural influences, the iron currency was nonetheless a valuable symbol of wealth and power. The double gong form has been flattened to resemble hoe currencies, and the simply forged connecting band is decorated by a swirling reed motif. Continued...



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Similar swirling designs were used throughout African metal and woodworking as eye-catching examples of the creator's mastery of their material. With rustic character, this iron currency looks especially striking as a piece of wall-mounted sculpture.



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