



CHAMBA GONG CURRENCY

\$2,480

c. 1900 • Nigeria • Iron • Collection #CAA0611

W: 16.0" D: 7.5" H: 39.0"

Like many pieces of traditional African metalwork, this gong had multiple uses for the Chamba people of the Benue River Valley in Nigeria. It was a ceremonial instrument, a status symbol, and a form of currency. Its hollow, acoustical form made it an ideal musical addition to ritual ceremonies, although its primary function would have been as currency used to negotiate major life transactions. With impressive heft and stature, this commanding sculptural object is an incredible example of African metalwork.



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