

Ogboni Society Bell (Ipawo Ase)

Date

mid 19th century

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Yoruba people

Medium

copper alloy, cotton and dye

Description

The Ogboni society derives from the Yoruba kingdom of Ijebu. Ogboni is believed to predate existing Yoruba dynasties and even had close ties with Benin as can be seen from shared iconography. The Ogboni staff or bell (ipawo ase) is used by chiefs, priests, Ogboni elders, and kings – all believed to possess and use ashe (authority / life force) for the benefit of their followers.

Dimensions

Overall: 15 x 2 1/2 x 2 1/4 in. (38.1 x 6.4 x 5.7 cm)



