

	Object:	Ring with buffalo head
	Museum:	Museum Ulm Marktplatz 9 89073 Ulm (0731) 161-4330 info.museum@ulm.de
	Collection:	Project for the reappraisal of the collections from colonial contexts
	Inventory number:	1920.4618r

Description

Zoomorphic finger ring from bronze with a braided look and a buffalo head. According to the inventory, it is an imitation.

Such zoomorphic rings are especially known from the Senufo people and come from the Ivory Coast or from Burkina Faso. They are i. a. linked to fortune telling and are in this context in the language of the Senufo named as "yawiiige" ("something that follows you"). In Western Africa, the people go to see fortunetellers considering i. a. health or work-related problems. "Yawiiige" can be e.g. bracelets, rings or anklets that shall mediate between the world of the humans and the spirit world. The trinkets should help to soothe the ghosts and thus solving the problems and conflicts that are revealed through the fortune telling. Moreover, they should serve as protection from mischief. The jewellery either gets bought by the advice seeking people at the suggestion of the fortunetellers or is worn by the fortunetellers themselves to maintain the relationship with the ghosts.

General Richard Erlenbusch (1863 - 1937) has given the object within a larger bundle to the Gewerbemuseum (Museum of Applied Arts) Ulm in 1920. The origin, as it could be an imitation, is not certain. Over a number of years, Erlenbusch committed different bundles as gifts or loans to the Gewerbemuseum. The bundles contained especially military items, which he obtained probably during his combat missions in the First World War i. a. in France and Italy. From where he obtained the non-European objects is not clear. However, these came into the museum's collection after Erlenbusch finished his military career (1920 and 1923).

Basic data

Material/Technique:

Bronze; cast

Measurements:

H 2 cm (with buffalo head), DIA 2 cm

Events

Created	When	19. century
	Who	Senufo people
	Where	West Africa
Owned	When	Until 1920
	Who	Richard Erlenbusch (1863-1937)
	Where	
[Relationship to location]	When	
	Who	
	Where	Burkina Faso
[Relationship to location]	When	
	Who	
	Where	Ivory Coast
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Gewerbemuseum Ulm
	Where	

Keywords

- Colonialism
- Colony
- Fingerring
- Koloniale Kontexte
- Kolonialzeit
- jewellery