

	<p>Object: Ivory spoon with the depiction of an African spoonbill (water bird)</p> <p>Museum: Museum Ulm Marktplatz 9 89073 Ulm (0731) 161-4330 info.museum@ulm.de</p> <p>Collection: Alte Kunst, Project for the reappraisal of the collections from colonial contexts</p> <p>Inventory number: Ohne Inventarnummer</p>
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Description

Carved ivory spoon with a split and twisted handle, an engraved pattern and a node. On the upper end there is a bird with a long, broad (opened) beak, probably a African spoonbill.

The spoon is a Benin-Portuguese ivory and so an object that has been produced in the former Kingdom of Benin but has been commissioned by Europeans for the European market. Probably the Edo or Yoruba people produced it.

The object was acquired by the Ulm merchant Christoph Weickmann for his cabinet of curiosities and is mentioned in the inventory for Weickmann's collection of 1659. From where he obtained the non-European objects is unknown except for one case and not researchable due to missing sources. What is certain, however, is that Weickmann didn't gain them on site by himself. He must have gotten them from middlemen because he didn't travel outside of Europe.

The remains of the collection Weickmann came into possession of the city of Ulm between 1785 and 1825 and were deposited with the Association for Arts and Antiquities in Ulm and Upper Swabia since 1857. At the end of the 19th century the objects came, together with the collection of the Antiquities Society, into the newly founded Gewerbemuseum (Museum of Applied Arts) and 1925 into the Museum of the City of Ulm.

Basic data

Material/Technique:

Ivory; carving

Measurements:

L 27,8 cm, W 5,7 cm, D 3,4 cm

Events

Created	When	Before 1659
	Who	
	Where	Nigeria
[Relationship to location]	When	
	Who	
	Where	Africa
[Relationship to location]	When	
	Who	
	Where	Europe
[Relationship to location]	When	
	Who	
	Where	Benin Empire
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Yoruba people
	Where	
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Edo people
	Where	
[Relation to person or institution]	When	
	Who	Christoph Weickmann (1617-1681)
	Where	

Keywords

- Koloniale Kontexte
- Kunst- und Wunderkammer
- Spoon