


Ethnographic Collections Mainz University: Commemorative Head

Institution	Image	Reg No.	Additional IDs	Object name and n	Dimension/s	Institution acquisition date	Acquisition details	Collector/Previous Owner	Comments
Ethnographic Collections Dept. of Anthropology and African Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz		2595	old registration number, Linden-Museum Stuttgart: 3173	Commemorative head (for an Edo king), c. mid 19th century brass, lost wax casting	H. 52cm D. 26cm Weight. 30kg	1971	acquired through exchange with the Linden-Museum Stuttgart (732 objects from Afghanistan/Pakistan exchanged for 637 objects mainly from Oceania and Africa from the Linden-Museum)	until 1897: Royal Court of the Edo Kingdom, Benin City (Nigeria) 1897: ('prize'/official booty or loot) British Admiralty, British officers or civilians connected to the British military expedition to the Edo kingdom in 1897 c. 1897/98: purchased by Eduard Schmidt, the German Consul in Lagos, who bought objects on the spot in Lagos c. 1898: purchased by Max Schoeller (1865-1943), factory owner and colonial activist, in Berlin (or Hamburg) 1898: Schoeller donated the commemorative head to the Linden-Museum Stuttgart in exchange for the Ritterkreuz 1. Klasse of the Friedrichs-Orden (by the King of Württemberg).	not known, whether Schmidt bought objects from the official booty ('prize'), which was also distributed among the officers of the expedition, or from the more unofficial 'loot' (seized by officers and other members of the expedition) > Was this distinction relevant on the spot in Lagos? (cf. Bodenstein 2020: Une typologie des prises du butin)