



Islamic Manuscript Case

Date

19th to 20th century

Primary Maker

Hausa people

Medium

leather and copper alloy

Description

The Hausa of northern Nigeria are Muslim traders and townspeople. This manuscript is a book of recipes, a collection of single pages of script incorporating various geometric designs. Carried in a leather case and used during a consultation between a cleric and a client, it was a source for a secret *hatumere*, or design, which would be made into an amulet for use by the client. The calligraphy used here appears to be the script associated with the town of Bornu. Throughout the manuscript are marginalia enhanced with green and yellow ink. Islamic art avoids images and places importance on God's utterances.

Scribes make these words visible and use as their primary aesthetic embellishment the geometry of God's creation.

Dimensions

Overall: 19 3/4 x 7 3/4 x 1 3/4 in. (50.2 x 19.7 x 4.4 cm) Overall (Without Tassel): 5 1/2 x 7 3/4 x 1 3/4 in. (14 x 19.7 x 4.4 cm)