



Ogboni Society Maskette

Date

19th to early 20th century

Primary Maker

Nigeria, Yoruba people

Medium

copper alloy

Description

The Ogboni society is believed to pre-date the existing royal dynasties of the Yoruba and Edo peoples of Benin. Ogboni titleholders hold authority that can rival that of the king. The maskette is worn as part of the regalia of that authority. The face bears the characteristic Ogboni scarification on the forehead.

Dimensions

Overall: 5 1/8 x 3 1/2 x 1 1/4 in. (13 x 8.9 x 3.2 cm)