The Benin Kingdom

Blier: “The Benin Kingdom: Politics, Religion, and Natural Order”
Presentation by Rebecca Boss
The Benin Kingdom before 1897

Map of West Africa: Gerhard Mercator, Atlas Minor, Amsterdam 1609.

Remains of the moat in Benin City, Photo: Barbara Plankensteiner, 2006
Benin (Nigeria).
Queen mother head, c. 1500-50. Brass, height 15" (39 cm).
British Museum, London.

Benin Kingdom (Nigeria). 16th century brass 20 x 19 x 22 cm
Ethnologisches Museum—Staatliche Museen zu Berlin

Benin (Nigeria).
A head, late sixteenth century? Brass and coral, height 10%" (27 cm).
British Museum, London.
Fig. 2: The Berlin commemorative heads according to Dark's typology and age classification.
Coral as a Material

Enotie Dance of the Oba, 1997, Acrylic on canvas

Oba Erediauwa with traditional wrapped skirt of fine cloth made by the weavers’ guild. Photo: Joseph Nevadomsky

Beaded Crown Benin Kingdom, Nigeria, 18th-19th century, coral agate, copper, 15 cm, The Trustees of the British Museum, London;
Beaded shirt Benin Kingdom, Nigeria, 18th-19th century, coral agate, copper, 71 x 65 cm, The Trustees of the British Museum, London
2005 Calendar poster with a list of important chiefs of the Kingdom of Benin. Museum für Völkerkunde Wien, inv. No. 185.025
Warrior King Ewuare: Art and Architecture

Benin (Nigeria). A royal procession in front of the palace, Benin City, illustrated in Olfert Dapper's Naukeurige Beschrijvinge der Airikaensche Gewesten, 1668.
Benin (Nigeria). The pendant plaque shows a king with two attendants (most of the right-hand one now missing), late sixteenth century. Brass, height 15K" (39.2 cm). Benin Museum Collection, Benin City, Nigeria
The Leopard

Right:
Benin Kingdom, Nigeria,
17th century, Brass 15.5 x 18 cm
Museum für Völkerkunde
Dresden, Staatliche
Ethnographische Sammlung
Sachen

Left:
Benin Kingdom, Nigeria,
17th-18th century, Brass 43 x 60 x 30 cm
Staatliches museum für
Völkerkunde München

Benin Kingdom, Nigeria,
16th-17th century, Brass 30 x 48 x 8 cm
Museum für Völkerkunde
Wien
The Benin Complex and Bird Imagery

Benin (Nigeria). A royal procession in front of the palace, Benin City, illustrated in Olfert Dapper's Naukeurige Beschrijvinge der Airikaensche Gewesten, 1668.
Palace Plaques


Relief plaque, Drummer with Slit Drums, Benin kingdom, Nigeria, 16th-17th century, Brass, 45.3 x 31 x 7 cm, The Trustees of the British Museum, London.
Double gong or sistrum, probably sixteenth century. Ivory, height 14 1/4" (36 cm). British Museum, London.

Benin (Nigeria). The palace altar to King Ovonramwen (r. 1888-97).

Benin (Nigeria). The throne of King Eresonyen, mid-eighteenth century. Brass, 15 x 16" (40 x 40.5 cm). Museum für Volkerkunde, Berlin.