

Basic Detail Report



Gong

Date

1825-1875 ca.

Description

Small, hanging gong cast from brass with a single, central boss. It has a fairly shallow, turned-down rim that curves slightly inward. The top and the sides are decorated with very stylized swirl patterns and flower motifs, also cast. The sides also contain animal motifs. The only undecorated sections are the boss, the border running around the circumference of the gong where the rim turns down, and the underside. There are four small holes spaced evenly around the sides. A green cord (probably not original to the instrument) is strung through two holes and tied, allowing the gong to be suspended. This gong

was likely cast by a Chinese craftsman or, at the very least, after the Chinese tradition, in Brunei, then traded to a group of Iban people in Sarawak, Malaysia. The Iban have a gong ensemble tradition comprising different types of gongs, gong chimes, and drums, depending upon the ensemble's function.

Dimensions

Length (diameter): 19 cm Circumference: 59.5 cm Depth: 5 cm Thickness of wall: approx. 1 cm