

A

CHICAGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM—ETHNOLOGY

22-53

210598

ENT

Provenience: West Africa

Field No.

People or Culture: Lower Niger Industry people
(Benin or nearby)

Object: horse harness

Material: leather, bronze, copper

Description:

"worn on the chest of the horse with the leather tab in the centre, hanging downwards, while the two bronze quoit-like disks hang over its lower neck or are attached to the saddle."

A.W.F.Fuller

Neg. No.

See reverse side

Dimensions: length (doubled) - 98; width (max.) - 9.6
(in cm.)

Acc. 2820

Collection: Fuller Collection: presented by
Mrs. A. W. F. Fuller, 16 January 1964.

Fuller label (cont'd from front) - (see Denham & Clapperton's "Narrative of Travels and Discoveries in N. & Cent. Africa in 1822-4," 1816, plate p.641, "Bornou Horseman.")

The leather work suggests N. Nigeria, while the bronze objects indicate Ashanti. In Pitt-Rivers' "Antique Works of Art from Benin" 1900, pl.30, fig.225-6, there is an exactly similar quoit object of undoubted Benin provenance having the edge ornamented with a band of plain guilloche pattern incised but it is tin in diagram. The British Museum has a specimen is ivory somewhat smaller, described in "Man" no.72, Sept 1918. In neither of these can any use be ascribed to them.

