

A

FIELD COLUMBIAN MUSEUM.

79

No

Ent.

Country

North America

~~24111~~  
48122

People

Ancient tribes

Possibly Mixtec

Locality

State of Guerrero, Mexico

Name

One gold (copper) ornament - head  
of devil - probably recent

Collection

E. C. Matthews

(over)

Where Placed

C.C. opp a 92 W

Notes

Acc. 493

exhibited 1918

These gold objects probably hung as pendants on the necklaces of persons of authority, wealth and distinction. One represents a frog and has several orifices for suspension, the other is a grotesque head and has a ring attached for suspension. Both were probably made by the cire perdue process and afterwards refined. The figure was modelled in wax and encased in a clay mould, leaving an orifice. Through this molten gold was poured, taking the place of wax. The mould was then broken and the gold figure polished and refined. Gold was collected in grains in the bed of rivers and was an important article of tribute from the Zapotecan region. It was worked by beating to a foil as well as by casting. The ancient Mexicans did wonderfully fine work but their conquerors smelted down nearly every piece for shipment to Spain.