

A

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.

96258

ENT

Country

Mexico

69

Locality

People

Mixtec

Stock.

Name

Bronze copy of teponaztli Mixteco.
ends plain, design on one side only.Figured in Penafiel, *Instrumentaria*, Pl. 161.
(over)

Collection

Fred. Starr

Notes

Penafiel Collection

Acc.

947

Width

Length

50 cm.

Height

Price

exhibited 1918

Such drums were used in religious ceremonies, war or other gatherings. The two leaves emit different tones. The carving is ornate and significant. The great figure like an A is the sign of the year. With it are seen the symbols for cipactli, the water-monster, probably the alligator, and for acatl, the reed or cane. These are combined with the single circle for the numerical one. The combination therefore signifies the first day of the week or (month) cipactli of the year "one-reed". This was the 1st day of the Mexican 52 yr cycle & consequently the most sacred day. Possibly the drum was used on that day, which fact would lend to its magical powers.