DL 237 [Double figure Ogboni]

ORIGINAL NAME: Edan Ogboni/ Edan Osugbo

ORIGIN/CULTURE: Yoruba, Nigeria, West Africa

**FEATURES/DESCRIPTION**

* Heads of a male and female figure, mounted on a staff
* Made of brass/iron, with fragments of clay
* Figures bound by a chain, attached to the head
* Between 4-10 inches in length.

The Edan Ogboni is the symbol of the Ogboni society. The Ogboni society is an indigenous spiritual, judicial and political group of the Yoruba. They are made up of titled nobilities within the Yoruba community. They function largely as observers of the King (Oba), by checking the king’s extremes and ensuring that the people are governed through the divine laws. The Ogboni society are the guardians and protectors of the land. Through their ardent veneration of the earth goddess, Ile or Odudua (the mother of life), and her blessings, they are able to exert judgment on persons within the community, who are involved in criminal and abominable offences.

Headed by the Oluwo (Master of mysteries and esoteric knowledge) the Ogboni also perform religious functions such as serving as the mouthpiece of Oracles. They also function as intermediaries between the living and divinities.

The Edan Ogboni represents a pair of Ogboni initiates, male and female, both bound by a metal chain attached around their neck. The metal chain made of brass – an element of hardness and workability, signifies the longevity, well-being and immortality of the society. The unification of both figures expresses the intent of the Ogboni society to ensure procreation and continuity of life, through the energy of the earth goddess, Ile.

During their meetings, the members of the society wear the Edan around their necks for proper identification. New initiates are also made to take an oath with the Edan to uphold the secrecy and sacredness of the society.