

Igbo-Ukwu

The Nigerian town of Igbo-Ukwu is notable for archaeological sites where highly sophisticated bronze artifacts were discovered.

Igbo Ukwu bronze

A ceremonial vessel made around the 9th century AD.

- Excavations in Igbo-Ukwu have found highly sophisticated bronze artifacts from the earliest known age of bronze casting, dating to the 9th or 10th century CE.
- The three sites were discovered from 1938-1959, and include Igbo Isaiah (a shrine), Igbo Richard (a burial chamber) and Igbo Jonah (a cache).
- Artifacts are believed to be remnants from the burial of a highly important person, and include ritual vessels, pendants, crowns and breastplates, jewelry, ceramics, copper and iron objects, and thousands of glass beads.
- The bronze castings, made in stages using the lost wax technique, illustrate the artisans' high level of skill.
- In addition to the artifacts at Igbo-Ukwu, the Igbo people are known for various other types of art including masks, Mbari houses, and mud sculptures.



Cache

A store of things that may be required in the future, such as food, which can be retrieved rapidly, protected or hidden in some way.

The elaborate designs and casting in bronzes such as this one point to the Igbo people's high level of skill.

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