

IKPOTOKI

Portuguese Figure



Ikpotoki means 'Portuguese' in Edo. Benin oral traditions claim that a man called Ogbeide, nicknamed Okhuaihe and deified in Benin during the reign of Oba Ewuare, used divination to attract Europeans to visit the kingdom. The first recorded Europeans reached Benin between 1472 and 1485 and after their arrival, casters and carvers of the guilds began to represent the Portuguese in the artworks they created.

