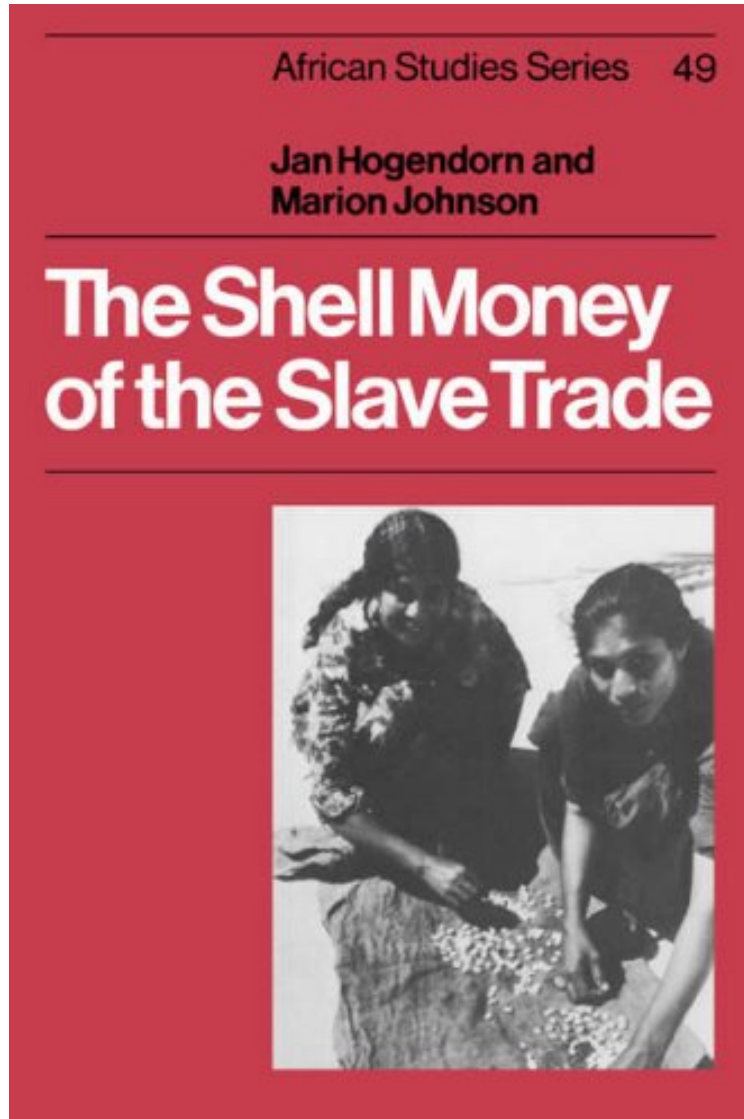


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## The Shell Money of the Slave Trade (African Studies)

*Jan Hogendorn, Marion Johnson*

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#1672622 in Books Cambridge University Press 2003-09-18 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.02 x .55 x 5.981, .81 #File Name: 0521541107248 pages | File size: 71.Mb

**Jan Hogendorn, Marion Johnson : The Shell Money of the Slave Trade (African Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Shell Money of the Slave Trade (African Studies):

This study examines the role of cowrie-shell money in West African trade, particularly the slave trade. The shells were carried from the Maldives to the Mediterranean by Arab traders for further transport across the Sahara, and to Europe

by competing Portuguese, Dutch, English and French traders for onward transport to the West African coast. In Africa they served to purchase the slaves exported to the New World, as well as other less sinister exports. Over a large part of West Africa they became the regular market currency, but were severely devalued by the importation of thousands of tons of the cheaper Zanzibar cowries. Colonial governments disliked cowries because of the inflation and encouraged their replacement by low-value coins. They disappeared almost totally, to re-appear during the depression of the 1930s, and have been found occasionally in the markets of remote frontier districts, avoiding exchange and currency control problems.