



Kuba-176-468

Wood height 30 cm, complete 1 m

The BONGO justice bell mask (BWOOM family)

The Lukengo king of the Kuba (Nyimi) was not allowed to see because he was above the laws of time. Highly sacred, in the service of immanent justice.

Any accused who had to appear before him surrounded by notables, if found guilty, he was subjected to ordeal: the poison test and various fire tests which were always very disabling. It sometimes happened that the king was called to appear before this formidable judge, and it was by shaking his head to shake the bell that the sanction fell. A judgment for a gross negligence against his people could result in death. During a conviction, a parrot feather was given to him by the KOLMs (dignitaries) who forced him to resign from his duties. Even going so far as to force him to poison himself or to plunge his hand into the punitive basket (See image 480).

Kuba-177

Height: 30 cm

Mortuary face of the queen mother made of a particular vegetable substance (the plant that wraps everything), similar to a braiding. Made several weeks after her disappearance and can be used for months for a series of honorary rituals. All the wives of Nyimi accompanied by mourners and priestesses will address him respectful tributes so as not to attract his wrath on the whole kingdom. In animist culture, metempsychosis is inseparable from this belief, in which almost all living or inert material supports are inhabited

KUBA - 2

Kuba-178

Height: 40 cm (wood)

Ostentatious bell mask from the small kingdom KUBA - BIEENG - KETE - PENDE du SUD.

Kuba-179

Notable KUBA on the left: the lackeet (headdress) is ritually removed with an adze which destroys it, here it sits on aquatic herbs (water lilies); return to childhood, to innocence due to old age and excess. The legs in crossed frog legs, the puffy face, stigmata of excesses and the blows operated on the left breast announce his symbolic death.

Notable KUBA on the right, is awaiting the inauguration with all the distinctive signs pertaining to his future office of which the signs of allegiance to the king still in place are carved there.

Kuba-180

The IKUL: knives of the elite. Here the model made of aluminum foil, a true work of art showing absolute mastery in working with metal, waste from an airplane cabin. Some of these knives were made of wood to be worn at sunset because a royal decision by LUKENGO had prohibited the carrying of metal weapons in the dark.

Kuba-356-358-359

Kuba-377-378

Various utility basketwork

KUBA - 3

Kuba-382

Height: 53 cm

ISHEEN IMAALU. Sometimes worn as a crest on the head. Here the lackeys (the equivalent of the Hebrew kippah) had the feathers removed for transport because the diameter can reach 1 meter.

Kuba-404

Height: 26cm

Babende ISHYEEN IMAALU

with feathers: Kuba warrior IYOOL

Used to prepare for a punitive expedition. Consecration to war for war.

KUBA-405

Height: 25cm

Babende ISHYEEN IMAALU (SHOOWA)

featherless: warrior of lower rank

In a hierarchical, subordinate manner, but which does not in any way damage the reputation of the man in combat.

Kuba-470-471-472

470: belts, pearl headgear, carpet,

471: prestige stick, lion tail with pearl handle.

472: feline mane hair necklace.

KUBA - 4

Kuba-473

Height: 30 cm

Jar of palm oil butter.

Kuba-479

Height: 25cm

Representation of a colonial administrator. Brutal, arrogant, alcoholic, unshaven, physically neglected. He does not realize that he is mocked by the entire population, during a celebration organized in his "honour" to which he was invited. The subterfuge is the use of a mask which is usually very important to put an end to all suspicion. Allows all grimacing attitudes a few meters from the hated one who has been intoxicated by palm wine or LUTUKU.

Kuba-525

Height: 25cm

Personal maternity with the protection of a very close-knit mother holding her daughter on her stomach, whom she wants to keep with her despite her puberty, which is finished and is ready to be married.