

CULTURAL ART

BOOK SHELF

A Book Review by Bill Ludwig, Administrator, of the West Las Vegas Library.

ART IN AFRICA: Treasures from the Congo, by Joseph Cornet, Phaidon Press

Every once in a long while a book is published which is published beyond any description and important beyond all others before it. The ART of AFRICA is such a book, the kind that you would want to own, to put on the coffee table, to pour through by the hour, if only you had the \$60 for the price tag that comes with it and the time it demands.

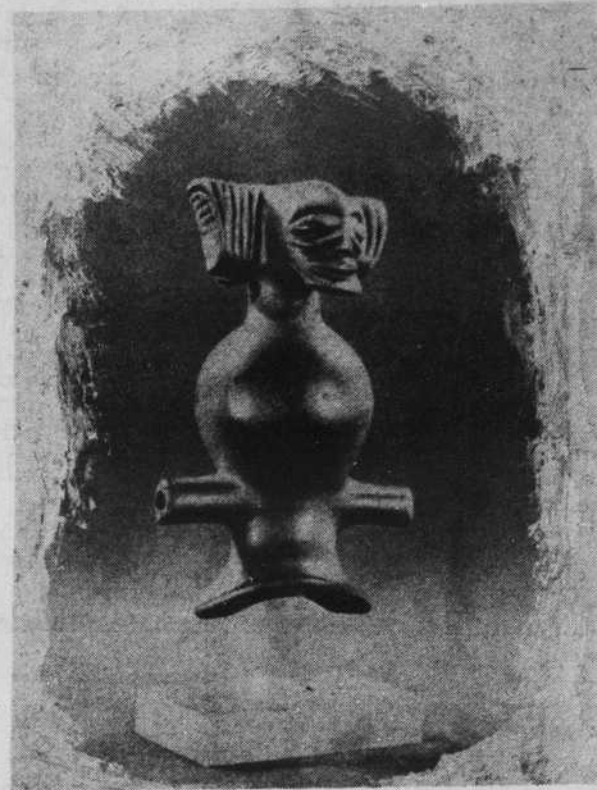
The title of the book is slightly misleading, for the art it pictures and describes is centered around the Congo River in the country now called Zaire. But no matter, the art within its pages is as the heart of Africa; to browse through the magnificent full-color photographs is to touch the heritage of all Africa.

One photograph of these incredible creations of "primitive" Africans is worth, at the very least, an hour of one's time. At that rate the book would be worth 180 hours of serious pleasure. But the equal number of pages of text will give the serious reader and equal amount of pleasure.

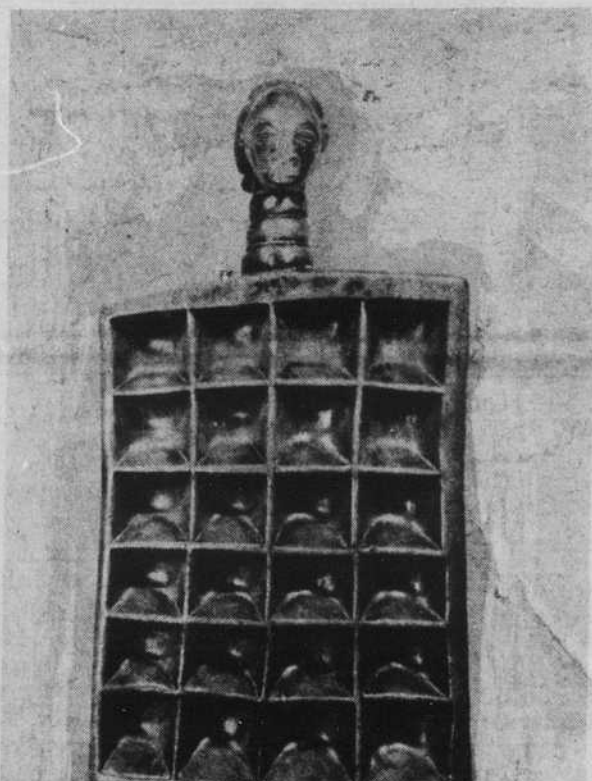
African art, its masks and statuettes and fetishes, is deeply involved in the religion and culture of its people, while at the same time it express beauty and creativity. The two aspects of the art of the thirty-three tribes of the Congo are carefully examined and interpreted by the author. The result is not only a big and beautiful book, but a meaningful and significant contribution to the understanding of Africa.



LWALA - Female Mask



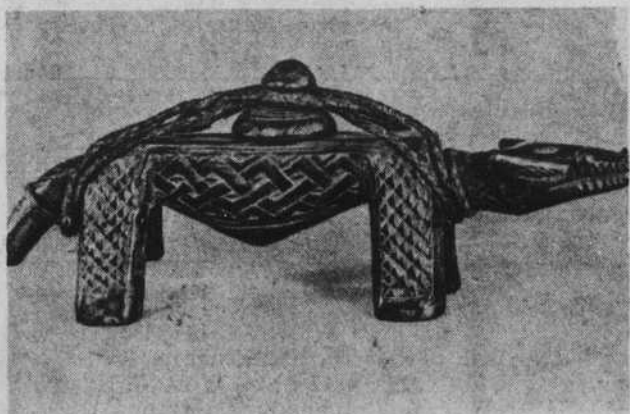
TSHOKWE - Small whistle



LUBA - Game board



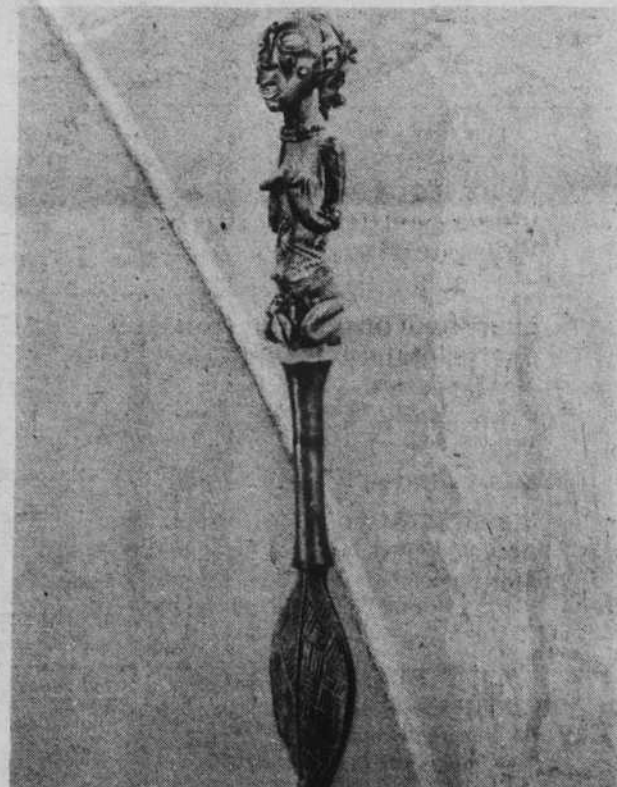
KUBA - Pot, wood inlaid with shell fragments



KUBA - Divining instrument



LUBA - Stool



LUBA - Staff of office



KUBA - Pipe