

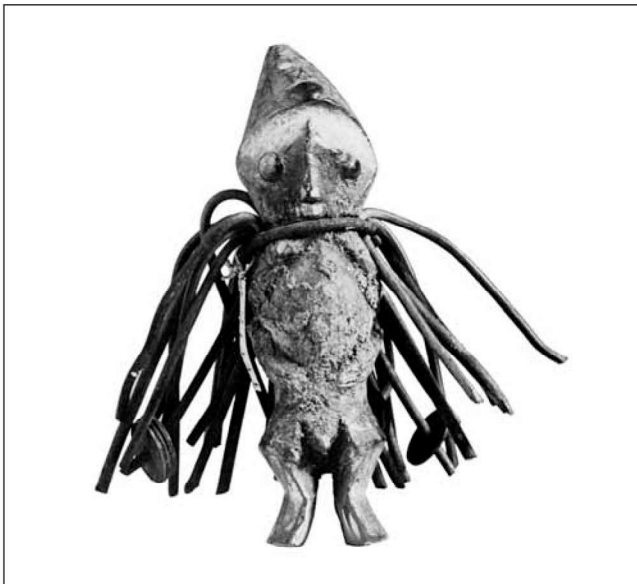
P. 21... Iron is abundant almost everywhere in this soil, and its not too deep.

P. 23... When Bongo (1) marry they exchange iron pieces in the shape of spears or small shovels for farming, as well as other metal cutting tools. A young man shall give thirty items of this kind to the woman's father (52).

This kind of exchange can be used both for marriage and for commercial reasons, also if one wants a servant.

"The Malibò, an iron spear with two small appendix at its ends, can be adapted to the tibia protecting it from cuts during fights, and is part of the price the groom pays to the father of the bride. Generally, the total price of a bride-to-be amounts to twenty Malibò and ten Doka (a round flat iron piece to bake bread)".

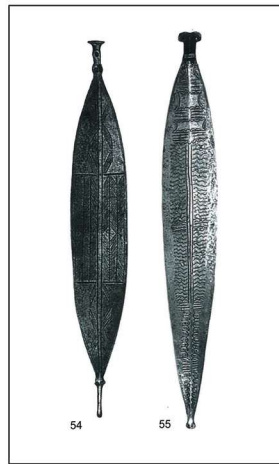
(Ezio Bassani, his note 52) (2)



Magical statue Zande taken by Bassani, illustration III
Height 14,5 cm

This magical statue is adorned with many brass bars around its neck, and are called Mitako. The coins you see hanging onto these bars should be European currency, five and ten cents coins with a hole in the centre, introduced in Congo by the Belgian Administration at the beginning of the 20th Century (Le Congo Belge en images, 1932, p. 121). This photograph shows the great diffusion of Mitako also in the north-east of Congo, as we will later see. (Cat. 4.35)

On the right, a Zande warrior dressed for parade. (Photo taken from Bassani, illustration IX). In his right hand, he is holding a throwing knife – a similar example has been illustrated by Torday, here on page 31 – in his left hand, in addition to the big shield, he is holding the Trumbash of the Mangbetu (See Chapter Mahieu here on page 44) and a war spear. (See Cat. 5.154)



Malibò

CAT. 5.165

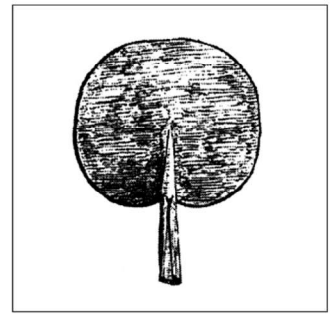
Iron forms, one side of which is convex and engraved, with the other side smooth and flat. They have appendages that appear to be used to attach them to the ankles (which are not protected by the shield) to protect them from low, spinning and grazing throwing knives.

Length: 29 and 30.8 cm

Discovered: Piaggia, South Sudan 1856-1858

Population: Bongo

Cat. Fl: 348/00 e 348/A (4)



Doka coin hypothesis (3)

CAT. 3.22



1) The Bongo is a population originated in Sudan that lives in a part of Sudan, along the higher part of the Bahr el Ghazal, and partly in Congo, south to the Uele river. As far as the culture goes, they are linked to the Zande group.

2) Ezio Bassani, with this note on the margin, quotes Orazio Antinori's piece, a famous explorer from Perugia, taken from "Viaggi di O. Antinori e C. Piaggia nell'Africa Centrale" from Bollettino della Società Geografica Italiana, 1868, pp. 91-165, where Antinori describes the objects to pay the dowry (pp. 101-102). Neither Antinori nor Bassani propose an illustration defining these two objects: the Malibò and the Doka.

3) The drawing that I propose here regarding the Doka coin refers to the Bongo's currency, the Melot. The illustration has been taken from a German explorer's book, Georg Schweinfurt "In the heart of Africa", Milan 1875, p. 97. We should be talking about the Melote, currency in use in all Sudan area. As it was used to bake bread, it could have had the diameter of 22-25 cm

4) Bibliography - PICCARDI MARCO S. & SALVATICI LUCIANO "Lame d' Africa" Firenze 2002, pag. 43

5.165 ZANDE

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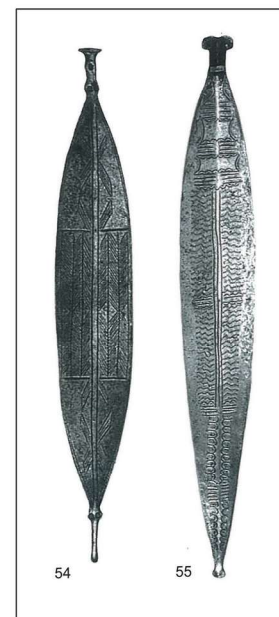
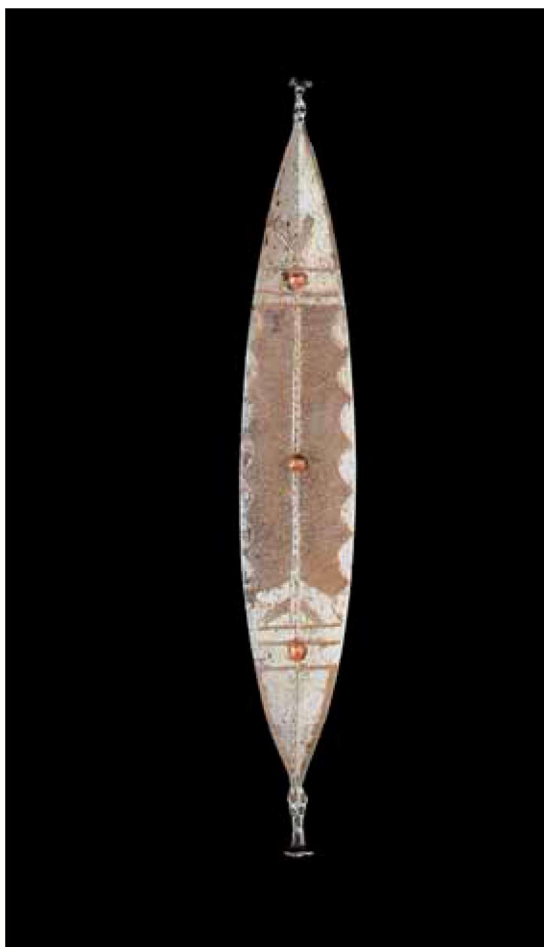
Iron currency
Congo Kinshasa
Height cm 34,4

Iron currency with inserted copper pieces made for the payment of marriage dowry.

This specimen which today is part of the British Museum collection, was collected in 1867 by an Egyptian viceroy.

- SCHILDKROUT E. & KEIM C.A., 1990, p. 96, n° 5.10

Photo taken from
Schildkrout &
Keim, p. 96



Malibò

Name of origin Malibò
See Chapter Piaggia

5.166 MANGBETU, ZANDE

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Iron currency
Congo Kinshasa
Swahili name: *Shoka*
Height 28-29 cm
Width 21-22 cm
Weight 500 gr

“The Shoka were realised in large numbers by the smiths of Stanley-Falls region. There was an accepted equality among other currencies of diverse ethnic groups, currencies such as the Mitako and the Liganda. The Shoka was worth 10 Mitako and one Liganda was worth 10 Shoka”.
(Elsen 1992, p. 100)

- BLACKMUN B. W. & HAUTELET J. 1990, tab. 18 (Shoka)
- ELSÉN J. & Others 1992, p. 100

