



FIBRE BAG

Probably Kuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, West Central Africa

This bag with a strap is made from raffia palm fibres. Starting from the centre of the base, the bag would have been woven in a spiral. The raised pattern is created using a knotting technique. Miniature versions of bags like this, containing magical substances, were worn by power figures.

Collected by E.R. Dennett between 1879 and 1889 and donated in 1889

9/1889/105



TWO BASKETS WITH PYRAMIDAL LIDS

Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo or Angola, West Central Africa

African baskets are usually made by men. They material used may be raffia palm, pineapple or banana leaves. These complex examples use twining, binding, coiling and plaiting techniques. Diviners use lidded baskets to carry magical items, but the precise function of these well-woven baskets is not known.

Collected by E.R. Dennett between 1879 and 1889 and donated in 1889

9/1889/87 A-B



TWO SMALL BASKETS WITH LIDS

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central Africa

These baskets with lids are made using a coiled technique. They may be made from raffia palm, pineapple or banana leaves. Baskets are used for storing and transporting food, everyday and special objects. Tiny lidded baskets such as these are sometimes used to carry medicinal items for magical use.

Donated by Mrs. Frances Rose-Troup in 1938

48/1938/6 A-B



OVAL BASKET WITH LID

Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central Africa

African baskets may be made from raffia palm, pineapple or banana leaves. They come in a great variety of shapes and sizes and are used for storing and transporting food, everyday and special objects. The function of this lidded basket is not recorded and it may have had many different uses.

Donated by Mrs. Frances Rose-Troup in 1938

48/1938/7



NKISI POT

Kongo, Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo or Angola, West Central Africa

This small pot has shells and bones tied around it with fibre string. It also has residues inside and a strip of green cloth around its neck. This evidence suggests that it is part of a *nkisi* or power object, used in rituals for divination, healing, or attacking enemies.

Collected by E.R. Dennett between 1879 and 1889 and donated in 1889

9/1889/56



POT WITH LONG NECK

Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo or Angola, West Central Africa

This pot is decorated with incised lines and a red painted pattern. The piece of raffia around its neck may be for carrying or suspension. African pots are usually hand-built by women using coiling techniques. Potters are often married to blacksmiths, the couple's professions representing the transformative powers of fire.

Collected by E.R. Dennett between 1879 and 1889 and donated in 1889

9/1889/69



TWO ROUND POTS

Probably Kuba, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central Africa

African pots are metaphorically associated with the human body - they are containers, like women during pregnancy. These two pots are decorated around their 'bellies' with incised patterns. The patterns are based on woven textiles and are the same as those used by women to ornament their bodies with scarifications.

Collected by E.R. Dennett between 1879 and 1889 and donated in 1889

9/1889/79, 9/1889/80



BOX WITH CARVED LEOPARD

Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo or Angola, West Central Africa

The original use of this tiny wooden box is not known. However, the spotted leopard carved on its lid provides a clue. The leopard is a potent symbol of power and royalty in Central Africa. Perhaps this box belonged to a chief or ritual specialist, or contained something valuable.

Collected by E.R. Dennett between 1879 and 1889 and donated in 1889

9/1889/68



TWO WOODEN FLASKS

Probably Kongo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central Africa

These wooden vessels have close-fitting lids attached with leather straps. They are based on the form of European powder-vessels and perhaps held gunpowder or poison. They may have been used by a ritual specialist charged with hunting wrongdoers. Their carved patterns are similar to those used for decorating woven textiles.

Donated by Mrs. Frances Rose-Troup in 1938

48/1938/8/1-2