“THE YORUBA OF NIGERIA & DAHOMEY”

September 4, 2019
Left: Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther (1809-1891); Above: Map of Yorubaland.
Above: Yoruba woman wearing abaja (ethnic scarifications) on forehead and cheeks, 1990s. Right: Yoruba culture, Nigeria, detail of an Ibeji (twin) figure, showing abaja markings, 20th century. Painted wood.

Ewà: Well made, or well done.
Yoruba peoples, Nigeria, Initiate of Orisánlá/Obatala, undergoing ritual painting with white clay, late 20th century.

àlà: white

óří: head  
ojú: eyes.
Left: Yoruba culture, Nigeria, Airowayoye, ruler of Orangun-Ila, wearing beaded crown symbolizing orí inú (inner head), 1977.
Above: Yoruba peoples, Nigeria, Medicine staff for Osanyin (Osun), 20th century. Iron.
Left: Yoruba peoples, Republic of Benin, *Devotee of Nana Bukuu holding her dance wand (ileesin)*, 1960s. Straw, beads, leather, chicken feet; Right: Yoruba peoples, Nigeria, *Fan for Yemoja*, 20th century. Metal.
Yoruba peoples, Nigeria, *Deji of Akure wearing beaded crown, robe & sandals*, circa 1960s.

*ohun èsó: ornamentation*
Left: Yoruba peoples, *Shango Shrine Figure holding a dance staff (Oshe shango)*, 19th century. Wood & beads. Above: Yoruba culture, Nigeria, *Ibeji (twin) figure*, 20th century. Wood with iron bracelets.

gígún: relative straightness