Kongo and Kuba: The Art of Rulership Display

Monday, March 30
Mbanza Kongo (Salvador, Angola), from Olfert Dapper’s Description of Africa, 1688.
Above left: L. Degrandpré, The house & funeral of the court minister of commerce, the Ma-Kayi, of Cabinda, c. 1787. Below left: Giovanni Antonio Cavazzi, After being denied a chair by the Portuguese governor, Queen Nzinga Mbundu sits on the back of her attendant, 1690. Engraving.
Yombe peoples, Democratic Republic of Congo, Royal scepter, 19th century. Ivory.
Above left: Kongo Kingdom, Democratic Republic of Congo/Angola, Royal hat (mpu), before 1674. Woven grass & fiber. Below left: Kongo Kingdom, Democratic Republic of Congo/Angola, Royal apron, before 1674. Woven grass & fiber.
Above & below left: renderings of the Kongo cosmogram.
Kongo Kingdom, Democratic Republic of Congo, Funeral cylinder (diboondo), 19th century. Terracotta.
Above: Photograph of a Bwende funerary mannequin (niombo) during a public ceremony, early 20th century.  
Right: Bwende, Democratic Republic of Congo, Funerary mannequin (niombo), early 20th century. Cloth, pigment, soil, human remains.
Map of Central Africa, 17th century CE.
Kuba-Bushoong Kingdom, Democratic Republic of Congo, Royal portrait figure (ndop), late 18th century. Wood.
Clockwise from above right: