Art from the West African Coast

Tuesday, August 31

Left: Akan peoples (Ghana), *Ceremonial sword and sheath*, before 1674. Iron, wood, ray skin, gold leaf.
Above left: Jorge de Aguiar, Detail of a chart of the Mediterranean, Western Europe, and the African Coast, 1492. Below left: Sierra Leone coast with Sugar Loaf mountains to the east.
Upper left: Jodocus Hondius, Map of Guinee, circa 1620. Lower left: Jan Kips, Map of the Coast of Guinea and Bay of Sierra Leona, 1732.
Baga (Guinea)

Sapi-Portugeuse & Unknown peoples (Sierra Leone)

Clockwise from left: Tellem peoples, Mali, Fragment of a blanket, 11th century CE. Cotton; Mende weaver operating a tripod loom, Sierra Leone, early 20th century. Mande-speaking peoples, Either Sierra Leone or Liberia, Three bolts of “Country cloth,” 20th century. Cotton.
Upper left: Mende peoples (Sierra Leone), Postcard showing newly installed Sande members alongside *ndoli jowei*, Sierra Leone, 1910s. Lower left: Mende peoples, Sande initiates in the bush, Sierra Leone, 1980s.
Examples of *sowe* and their assorted characteristics and visual elements.
Clockwise from lower left: Dan peoples (Liberia or Cote d'Ivoire), Deangle mask, early 20th century. Wood, pigment, cowrie shells. Ethnic group map of Core d'Ivoire. Yacouba people (culturally parallel to the Dan of Liberia) (Cote d'Ivoire), Mask, late 19th century/early 20th century. Wood. We artist (Cote d'Ivoire), . Young maiden mask (ninea-gla), late 19th century/early 20th century. Wood, metal, cloth, hair.
Left: Professor Powell holding a passport mask (*ma go*). Right: Dan peoples (Liberia), *Passport masks (ma go)*, before 1950. Wood, beads.
Akan (Asante/Ewe/Fanti) (Ghana)

Map of Ghana
Akan peoples (Ghana), *Akuaba figure*, early 20th-century. Wood.
Left: Akan peoples (Ghana), Funerary head, 19th century. Terracotta. 
Below: Kani Kwei (Fanti), Cocoa bean coffin, 1970s.
Fon (Republic of Benin)

Above: Illustration after Barbot, *Guinea Coast “fetishes,”* 1746. Engraving. Right: Fon peoples (Republic of Benin), *Bocio, Male Figure,* 19th-20th century. Wood, cowrie shells, beads, cords, feathers, etc.
Map of the Republic of Benin.
Above: Fon peoples (Cyprien Tokundagba) (Republic of Benin), Bas-relief from the adjalala building, King Guezo's palace, 20th century. Polychrome adobe.
Left: Fon peoples (Sosa Adede) (Republic of Benin), Man-shark dedicated to King Gbehanzin, 1889-94. Polychrome wood. Right: Fon peoples (Sosa Adede) (Republic of Benin), King Glele in the guise of a Lion, ca. 1858-89. Polychrome wood.
Left: Fon peoples (Ganhu Huntondji) (Republic of Benin), *Warrior Figure*, ca. 1858-89. Wood & iron. Right: Fon peoples (Akati Akpele Kendo) (Republic of Benin), *Warrior Figure*, ca. 1858-89. Iron.