Ejagham/Mande/Akan

Thursday, September 16

Left: Rigobert Bonne, Map of West Africa from the Gold Coast (modern day Ghana), south around the Bights of Benin and Biafara) to Gabon, Congo and Angola, 1770. Above: Map of the cultures of the Nigerian and Cameroonian Cross River area whose peoples were swept up during the transatlantic slave trade.
Left: Ejagham peoples (Nigeria), Photo of an Ekpe (or Men's Leopard Secret Society) masquerader, early 20th century. Right: Ejagham peoples (Nigeria), Photo of a priestess of Nnimm (or the Women’s Secret Society), early 20th century.
Ejagham peoples (Nigeria), Women performing a Moninkim-style masquerade dance at the Calabar Carnival, early 21st century.
Ejagham peoples (Nigeria), Egbo Men's Leopard Secret Society, early 20th century.
Maps of West Africa, showing geographic region where Mande- and Gur-speaking peoples live.
Left: A round adobe dwelling with thatched roof, Guinea, 21st century. Right: Kogi woman standing in front of a traditional adobe/thatched roof dwelling, Colombia, 21st century.
Above and below left: Mande peoples (Sierra Leone or Liberia), Gowns, 19th century. Cotton.
Mende peoples (Sierra Leone), Gown, 19th century. Cotton.
Left and below: Mende peoples (Sierra Leone), Blanket, 20th century. Cotton.
Mende peoples (Sierra Leone), *Hammock*, 19th century. Cotton.
Junkanoo: Bahamian term for Boxing Day masquerade

Jonkonnu: Jamaican term for Boxing Day masquerade

John Canoe: Same as above, plus name of early 18th-century slaver trader on Africa’s Gold Coast

John Coonah: Southern U.S. term for Christmas masquerade

gens inconnu: French for “masked people”

jeunes cannuers: French for “young cane cutters”

dzonko nu: Ewe term for “male sorcerer”
Winslow Homer, *Dressing for the Carnival*, 1877. Oil on canvas.
Maps of West Africa & the Akan-speaking peoples geographic distribution.
Above left: Ewe weaver working on a narrow-strip loom, Ghana. Late 20th century. Below left: Ewe peoples (Ghana), Detail of cloth, 20th century. Cotton.