The Black Atlantic
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Kongo I

Monday, January 23, 2023

Upper right: Johann Moritz Regendas, Portraits of enslaved Africans (from various Congolese and Angolan ethnic groups) in Brazil, 19th century. Lower right: Map of the Congo, Angola and Benguela Kingdoms, 18th century.
Above left: View of M’Banza Kongo (Salvador, present day Angola), 1688. Below left: Luumbu, or the royal enclosure, where the funeral of Ma-Kayi, the Kongo court minister of commerce is held, Cabinda, Angola, circa 1787.
Above: Giovanni Antonio Cavazzi, After being denied a chair by the Portuguese governor, Queen Nzinga Mbundu sits on the back of her attendant, 1690. Engraving. Right: Francesco Caporale, Portrait of Manuel ne Vunda, Kongo Ambassador to the Holy See, ca. 1608. Marble. Chapel of Santa Maria Maggiore, Rome, Italy.
Clockwise from above left and right: Two diagramtic renderings of the Kongo cosmogram. Detail of Colonoware, showing Kongo cosmogram on base, South Carolina, 18th century. Saint Christopher medal (with relief compass on rear) found in Fort Mose, St. Augustine, FL, date unknown. Silver.
Kongo peoples (Democratic Republic of Congo), Nkisi Nkondi, circa 1875. Wood, pigment, iron, ivory, cotton, other materials.
Lower left: Kongo peoples (Republic of Congo & Angola), Head, 18th-19th century. Terracotta.