Congo: An Introduction

Wednesday, March 29

Left: Kongo Kingdom (Democratic Republic of Congo), Guardian figure of a ruler smoking, head averted (tomba, ntadi), 19th century. Steatite.
Map of the Kongo Kingdom
Mbanza Kongo (Salvador, Angola), from Olfert Dapper’s Description of Africa, 1688.
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. Right: Kongo kingdom (Republic of Congo or Angola), Top of staff, possibly derived from a crucifix, 18th century. Brass.
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 peoples (Democratic Republic of Congo), Symbolic plaque (lutomu), 17th-18th century. Wood.
Kongo Kingdom (Democratic Republic of Congo), Funeral cylinder (diboondo), 19th century. Terracotta.