

**Edward P. Taylor Research Library – Pathfinders for Collections Research  
African Art Resource Guide**

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# Edward P. Taylor Research Library

## African Art Resource Guide

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### Introduction

This is a guide to the Edward P. Taylor Research Library's resources in African Art. Every effort has been made to show resources pertinent to works in the A.G.O.'s collection. Accordingly, this guide is by no means an exhaustive list of all of the library's resources relating to the field. Additional resources can be found by searching the online catalogue, using the 'Subject Headings' section below as your guide.

Much of the A.G.O.'s collection of African Art is from the Barbara and Murray Frum Collection. An exhibition of the Frum collection was held at the A.G.O. in 1981. The exhibition catalogue contains entries on many of the works now in the A.G.O.'s permanent collection. See Fagg c1981 under 'Collection/Exhibition Catalogues' for the exhibition catalogue, and *Appendix B* for a table containing correspondences between works in the A.G.O.'s collection and the catalogue entries.

For the sake of this resource guide, the artworks in the A.G.O.'s collection have been referred to by their accession number. Please see *Appendix A* for a listing of accession numbers and descriptions.

If you are just beginning your research of African Art, start with some of the 'General Books' (especially Visonà 2001, and Willett 1993), as well as the Grove Dictionary of Art's entry, s.v. 'Africa'.

### Subject Headings

As few African works are listed by artist name, the best way to search for information the library's online catalogue is by subject heading. Examples of various types of African Art subject headings are listed below:

#### *General subject headings*

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Art, African  
Art, African – Periodicals  
Art, African – Exhibitions  
Art, African – Bibliography  
Art, African – 20<sup>th</sup> century – Bibliography  
Art, Primitive – Africa

*For exhibitions from a specific century, search in the following format:*

Art, African – 20<sup>th</sup> century – Exhibitions

*And for a specific decade in that century:*

Art, African – 20<sup>th</sup> century (1990s) – Exhibitions

#### *Media*

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To search by specific media look under subject headings such as:

Masks, African  
Sculpture, African  
Figure Sculpture, African  
Bronzes, African

Drawing, African  
Painting, African

Wood-carving – Africa  
Terra-cotta sculpture – Africa  
Architecture – Africa

*For works in a specific media, from a specific region, search in the following format:*

Sculpture – Africa, West

*For exhibitions containing works in a specific media, search in the following format:*

Figure Sculpture, African – Exhibitions

#### *Art by region/peoples*

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Art – Africa, West  
Art – Africa, Sub-Saharan

*For specific peoples, search in the following format:*

Kosova (African Peoples)

*And for exhibitions of works by specific peoples:*

Kosova (African Peoples) – Art – Exhibitions

*Miscellaneous*

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Art, African – Collectors and Collecting  
 Art, African -- Expertising  
 Art, African – Economic aspects

Art and Society – Africa  
 Europeans in African Art

Mythology, African  
 Africans – Folklore  
 Icons – Africa

If you wish to see a larger sample of subject headings for African Art look in the latest edition of *Library of Congress Subject Headings*, or search 'Africa' under 'Subject Headings Alphabetical' in the online catalogue.

*Items in the Library's Collection*

(Listed by relevance)

*General books*

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Visonà, Monica Blackmun (ed.), **A History of Art in Africa**  
 (New York: Harry N. Abrams, 2001)  
 709.6 H62 MAIN

A comprehensive and current introduction to the history of African Art. Organised geographically, it includes sections on Egypt and African diaspora. Cultural context is emphasised. Contemporary art is also considered. Contains seven hundred illustrations and nine maps, an annotated bibliography, index, and brief glossary.

Perani, Judith, and F.T. Smith, **The Visual Arts of Africa: Gender, Power and Life Cycle Rituals**  
 (Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1998)  
 709.6 P41 MAIN

Excellent introductory text with a very extensive and current bibliography. Organised geographically by region, detailing important art traditions from the entire continent. Concerned especially with the themes of 'gender, power, and life cycle rituals', as expressed in a variety of media: figurative sculpture, masquerades, architectures, textiles, dress, ceramics, and so forth. Contemporary artworks are also discussed.

Willett, Frank, **African Art**  
 (London: Thames and Hudson, 1993)  
 709.6 W66 MAIN

A concise, general introduction to African Art. Organised chronologically and by media. Mostly contains figurative sculpture, although there is a chapter on architecture. Treats questions of artistic production and technique, as well as object use. Slightly dated but extensive bibliography.

*General Books, continued*

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**Vansina, Jan, *Art History in Africa: An Introduction to Method***

(London: Longman, 1987)

709.6 V36 MAIN

Presents a methodology for the study of African Art. Consideration of 'the identification of an art object, its relation to its social matrix, the study of its medium and technique, its style and meaning and its relationship to other arts and to culture'. Begins with a general discussion of African geography, processes of identification, descriptions, authorship, forgeries, dating, etc. Examines various media and techniques of production, questions of style, iconography, themes and motifs, approaches to interpretation, culture, creative processes, and wider context. Includes a comprehensive bibliography.

**Cole, Herbert M., *Icons: Ideals and Power in the Art of Africa***

(Washington: National Museum of African Art [Smithsonian Institution Press], c1989)

709.6 W27.56 MAIN

A consideration of 'types' in Africa sculpture: the couple, the woman and child, the armed male, the rider, and the stranger. Examines sex and gender relationships, intimacy, binary oppositions, procreation, women's initiation rites, twins, masculinity, weaponry, animal mounts, and depictions of early colonial contact.

**Anton, Ferdinand et al., *Primitive Art: Pre-Columbian, North American Indian, African, Oceanic***

(New York: Abrams, 1979)

709.011 An8 RS

An out-dated, and at times highly problematic account of African Art. However, it does provide an extensive bibliography of pre-1979 resources on African Art.

*Collection/exhibition catalogues*

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**Fagg, William, *African majesty: from Grassland and Forest***

(Toronto: Art Gallery of Ontario, c1981)

732.2 T63.2 MAIN

Multiple illustrations of 59 works from the Frum collection (c 1981), as well as insightful catalogue entries by William Fagg on each. See *Appendix A* for a detailed list of works in the AGO collection which are included in the catalogue. Each catalogue entry provides bibliographic references.

**Kan, Michael et al., *African Masterworks in the Detroit Institute of Arts***

(Washington: Published for the Detroit Institute of Arts by Smithsonian Institution Press, c1995)

709.6 D48.5 MAIN

Catalogue of the African Art Collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Organised by region. Extensive bibliography.

Entries relevant to works in AGO collection: Baule female figure and Baule gong beater (16, 17 and 18 [Cat. Nos.] – 99/450 [AN]), Yoruba Gelede headdress (26 – 99/451), Yoruba Epa/Elefon mask (28 – 99/451), Bamileke Mother and Child (39 – 99/475, 2001/99, 3001/100).

**Fagg, William Butler, *African Tribal Images: the Katherine White Reswick Collection***

(Cleveland: Cleveland Museum of Art, 1968)

709.66 R31 F13 MAIN

Catalogue of the collection of Katherine White Reswick, with works organized by peoples. It details exemplary works by Dogon, Bambara, Senufo, Sherbro, Baule, Yoruba, and Cameroon grasslands artists (such as Bamileke, and Bamenda), among others.

*Collection/exhibition catalogues, continued*

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**Royal Academy of Arts, London, Africa, the Art of a Continent: 100 Works of Power and Beauty**

(New York: Guggenheim, c1996)

709.6 R81.2 MAIN

Exhibition catalogue of the show organized by the Royal Academy of Arts, London, in association with the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York. The Bamileke mid-nineteenth century door columns (AN 2001/99) are featured in this exhibition (Cat. No. 82).

**Szalay, Miklós, ed., African Art from the Han Coray Collection: 1916-1928**

(Munich: Prestel, 1998)

709.6 C81 Ut3 MAIN

Catalogue of the Han Coray Collection at the Völkerkundemuseum (University of Zurich). The catalogue focuses on figural sculptures. Contains various introductory and specialised essays which examine Coray as a collector, female sexuality as represented by figure sculpture, Bamana headdresses, Baule male figures, and much else.

Entries relevant to works in AGO collection: We (Gere/Guerre) mask (15 [Cat. No.] – 99/444 [AN]), Baule male figure (16ff. – 99/450), Heddle pulleys of the Baule and Guro (20ff. – 99/450), Yoruba Gelede masks (43ff. – 99/451), Bangwa portrait statue *lefem* (52 – 99/476), and Songye double figure *nkishi* (144ff. – 99/464).

**Robbins, Warren M., and N. I. Nooter, African art in American collections: survey 1989**

(Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1989)

709.6 R53 MAIN

Extensive catalogue of works from various American collections. Prefaced by a series of introductory essays. Grouped by regions, the illustrations are accompanied by very brief entries.

*Peoples*

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**Yale University Art Gallery, Baule: African Art, Western Eyes**

(New Haven, Conn.: Yale U.P., 1997)

730.96668 Y1.8 MAIN

An extensive study of Baule figural sculpture and society. Discusses Western perceptions of Baule art, social organization, art objects associated with performance, sacred ritual, and domestic spaces. Includes a bibliography, glossary, and index.

**Musée Dapper, Paris, Dogon**

(Paris: Musée Dapper, [1994])

730.96623 P21 MAIN

French text. Exhibition catalogue with numerous introductory essays discussing the country and culture of the Dogon people, mythology in Dogon sculpture, and anthropological perspectives on Dogon art. Includes maps, notes, index, and bibliography.

**Museum for African Art, New York, Bamana: the Art of Existence in Mali**

(New York: Museum of African Art; Zurich: Museum Rietberg; Gent: Snoek-Ducaju &amp; Zoon, c2001)

730.96623 N42.555 MAIN

Exhibition catalogue of Bamana sculpture. Includes numerous essays on cultural context, as well as specific Bamana institutions (such as the *Sogow bò* masquerade and the *Jow* initiation rites). Includes glossary and bibliography.





*Peoples, continued*

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Fagg, William Butler, **Yoruba, Sculpture of West Africa**  
 (New York: Knopf, 1982)  
 730.966 F13 MAIN

Catalogue which examines late-nineteenth to early-twentieth-century sculpture from Yoruba. The descriptive catalogue is prefaced by an extensive introduction by Fagg. Includes a glossary of the Yoruba cults, as well as an extensive bibliography.

*Specialized topics*

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Steiner, Christopher B., **African Art in Transit**  
 (Cambridge: C.U.P., 2001)  
 709.6668 St3 MAIN

An 'account of the commodification and circulation of African objects in the international market.' Discusses how 'art objects achieve meaning and value as they travel across cultural and international boundaries.' Concerned mostly with Cote d'Ivoire.

Coombes, Annie E., **Reinventing Africa: Museums, Material Culture, and Popular Imagination in Late Victorian and Edwardian England**  
 (New Haven: Yale U.P., 1997)  
 709.6 C78 MAIN

A study of British colonial invasions and expansions between 1890 and 1918 which resulted in the removal of a number of African artifacts, subsequently taken to Britain and displayed in museums' collections. The book details (among much else) the case of the Benin 'bronzes', the critics of the Empire, and the role of missionaries in constructing a Western image of Africa.

Blier, Suzanne Preston, **The Royal Arts of Africa: the Majesty of Form**  
 (New York: Abrams, c1998)  
 709.67 B61 MAIN

Examines royal-court art of West and Central Africa (such as Benin, Yoruba, Dahomey, Asante, Kongo, Kuba and others).

D'Azevedo, Warren L. (ed.), **The Traditional Artist in African Societies**  
 (Bloomington: Indiana U.P., 1975)  
 709.67 T67 MAIN

A series of ethnographic studies that intends to separate and better articulate 'the role of the traditional artist in African society'. The nine studies treat different geographic regions in West and equatorial Africa. All essays are concerned with contemporary production but nonetheless provide useful insight into techniques of artistic production, local aesthetic traditions, and ethical concepts.

Roberts, Allen F., **Animals in African Art: From the Familiar to the Marvelous**  
 (New York: The Museum for African Art, c1995)  
 709.6 N42 MAIN

Contains the exhibition catalogue for 'Animals in African Art: from the familiar to the marvelous' at the Museum for African Art, New York. Roughly the first half of the book contains a discussion of representations of animals in African Art. The second half consists of the catalogue. The entries are divided by type: domestic, wild, anomalous, composite, leopards, and animals and humans.

*Specialized topics, continued*

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Neuberger Museum, **African Art Looking Guide: Object and Intellect: African Art from the Permanent Collection**

(Neuberger Museum, 1991)

709.6 P97 MAIN

Small booklet published as a guide for children visiting the African collection of the Neuberger Museum. A good example of a children's introduction to African artworks. Contains a brief bibliography of children's books which have African themes.

*Periodicals*

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African Art periodicals are listed under the subject heading: Art, African – Periodicals  
See the online catalogue for details of library holdings. All are partial runs.

**African Arts**

(Los Angeles: African Studies Center, University of California, Los Angeles, 1967—)

**Revue Noire**

(Paris: Publications Editions Bleu Outremer, 1991—)

**Arts d'Afrique Noire: Arts Premiers**

(Arnouville, France: Arts d'Afrique Noire, 1972—)

### Online Resources

There are a number of excellent online resources related to African Art.

#### **Art History Resources on the Web – African Art**

Extensive links to online resources.

<http://witcombe.sbc.edu/ARTHafrica.html>

#### **National Museum of African Art (Smithsonian)**

<http://www.nmafa.si.edu/>

with links to

Explore the Collection

<http://africa.si.edu/collections/index.html>

Advanced Search of the Museum's Collection including catalogue entries and images. Quite comprehensive (over 1500 works). Use search terms which correspond to works in the AGO's collection.

<http://africa.si.edu/collections/advanpg.asp>

#### **Warren M. Robbins Library at the National Museum of African Art (Smithsonian)**

<http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/nmafa/>

with links to

African Art on the web. The emphasis is mostly on contemporary and recent African Art, however there are relevant links under 'Art History'. For a more comprehensive list of links see 'Art History Resources on the Web – African Art' above.

[http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/nmafa/subject\\_guide\\_nmafa.cfm](http://www.sil.si.edu/libraries/nmafa/subject_guide_nmafa.cfm)

#### **African Arts Journal – African Studies Center – UCLA**

Listings of articles and back issues to 1967, however there are fees to access full-text articles.

<http://www.international.ucla.edu/africa/africanarts/>

#### **Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection (University of Texas at Austin)**

Maps of Africa. Excellent range of maps in '.pdf' format.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/africa.html>

#### **Art and Life in Africa Project – University of Iowa**

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/>

with links to

'Peoples Resources' for social/cultural/political information on particular African Peoples. General information of various peoples.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~africart/toc/people.html>

Appendices*Appendix A – Accession numbers and descriptions of works*

In descending order by accession number.

<b>Accession No.</b>	<b>Place/People of Origin</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Media</b>	<b>Date</b>
2004/68	African	Statue of Queen Nana with Child	wood with ochre pigment	1914 c
2001/102	African; Mali	Antelope Headdress	wood	late 19th - early 20th century
2001/101	African; Mali	Dogon Figure	wood	1850
2001/100	African; Bamileke	Cameroon King (Nguambo)	wood, traces of pigment	mid-19th century
2001/99	African; Bamileke	Two Door Columns	wood, traces of pigment	mid-19th century
99/483	African; Bongo, Sudan	Grave Marker	wood	19th century
99/482	African; Hemba, Zaire	Female Figure	wood	late 19th century
99/481	African; Hemba, Luba, Zaire	Female Calabash Figure	wood	late 19th, early 20th century
99/480	African; Luba, Zaire	Stool with Female Figure	wood	19th century
99/479	African; Mahongwe, Kota, Gabon	Reliquary Figure (Bwete)	wood, corroded brass, copper, iron	late 18th, early 19th century
99/478	African; Bafoussam, Cameroon	Double Figure	ivory	19th century
99/477	African; Bemanda, Cameroon	Standing Male Figure	wood	early 20th century
99/476	African; Bangwa, Cameroon	Statue of a King	wood	late 19th century
99/475	African; Bamileke, Cameroon	Dance Staff	wood	late 19th century
99/474	African; Keaka, Nigeria	Standing Male Figure	wood, encrustations	early 20th century
99/473	African; Ekoi, Nigeria	Triple-Faced Helmet Mask	wood, painted skin, metal, bone	19th century
99/472	African; Dogon, Mali	Primeval Couple	wood, iron	18th century
99/471	African; Dogon, Mali	Horse and Rider	wood, iron, traces of sacrificial coating	13th-15th century
99/470	African; Tchouke, Zaire	Comb	wood	20th century
99/469	African; Hemba, Luba, Zaire (Yambula)	Royal Ancestor Figure	wood	19th century
99/468	African; Lwalwa, Zaire	Male Mvondo Mask	wood, fibre	early 20th century
99/467	African; Luba, Zaire	Mask, Miniature	wood	20th century
99/466	African; Wongo, Zaire	Ceremonial Adze	wood, metal	19th century
99/465	African; Luba, Zaire	Personal Fetish Figure	ivory	19th century

99/464	African; Songye, Zaire	Standing Male Fetish Figure	wood with metal, fibre, ivory, beads, leather and cowrie shells	19th century
99/463	African; Punu, Zaire	Mask	wood, kaolin	late 19th century
99/462	African; Punu, Zaire	Personal Fetish or Charm	wood	20th century
99/461	African; Bembe, Zaire	Alunga Janiform Mask	wood, red, white and black pigment	
99/460	African; Kota, Gabon	Reliquary Figure with Basket	wood, metal, bone, fibre	19th century
99/459	African; Wum, Cameroon	Mask	wood	20th century
99/458	African; Bamum, Cameroon	Wax Figurine for Metal Casting	beeswax	20th century
99/457	African; Bangwa, Cameroon	Post with Four Heads	wood, encrustations	late 19th century, early 20th century
99/456	African; Kingdom of Bangangte, Cameroon	Commemorative Statue of a Queen with Child	wood	19th century
99/455	African; Oron, Nigeria	Statue of an Ancestor (Ekpu)	wood	18th century
99/454	African; Owo, Yoruba, Nigeria	Royal Armlet	ivory	18th century
99/453	African; Yoruba, Nigeria	Divination Bowl: Mother and Child (Agere Ifa)	wood, glass beads	end of 19th century
99/452	African; Yoruba, Nigeria	Kneeling Female (Odo Shango)	wood, red and white glass beads	late 19th century
99/451	African; Yoruba, Nigeria	Gelede Mask	wood, traces of pigment	late 19th century
99/450	African; Baule, Ivory Coast	Hedle Pulley with Mask	wood	20th century
99/449	African; Bambara, Mali	Standing Female Figure	iron	19th century
99/448	African; Bambara, Mali	Mask with Standing Figure	wood	early 20th century
99/447	African; Guere Wobe	Mask	wood fibre	19th century
99/446	African; Lobi, Upper Volta	Female Standing Figure	wood	early 20th century
99/445	African; Bozo, Mali	Ceremonial Ram's Head	wood, kaolin, iron, felt	late 19th century, early 20th century
99/444	African; We (Guerre), Ivory Coast	Mask	wood	19th century
99/443	African; Yaure, Ivory Coast	Mask	wood	early 20th century
99/442	African; Senufo, Ivory Coast	Horse and Rider	bronze	19th century
99/441	African; Senufo, Ivory Coast	Horse and Rider	bronze	19th century
99/440	African; Kissi, Sierra Leone	Ancestor Figure	stone	16th century
99/439	African; Dogon, Mali	Figurative Charm	bronze	19th century
99/438	African; Dogon, Mali	Figurative Charm	bronze	19th century
99/437	African; Bankoni, Mali	Head in form of a sheep's head	terracotta	12th century

99/436	African; Bankoni, Mali	Head in form of an animal	terracotta	12th century
99/435	African; Bankoni, Mali	Head	terracotta	12th century
99/434	African; Bankoni, Mali	Head	terracotta	12th century
99/433	African; Lere, Mali	Standing Figure	bronze	10th-12th century
99/432	African; Lere, Mali	Standing Figure	bronze	10th-12th century
99/431	African; Lere, Mali	Standing Figure	bronze	10th-12th century
99/430	African; Lere, Mali	Standing Figure	bronze	10th-12th century
99/429	African; Lere, Mali	Standing Figure	bronze	10th-12th century
99/428	African; Lere, Mali	Standing Figure	bronze	10th-12th century
99/427	African; Lere, Mali	Standing Figure	bronze	10th-12th century
99/426	African; Nok, Nigeria	Standing Figure	terracotta	10th-12th century
99/425	African; Jenne, Mali	Seated Female Figure	bronze	12th-14th century
99/424	African; Jenne, Mali	Seated Figure Missing Head	terracotta	13th-15th century
99/423	African; Jenne, Mali	Seated Figure Missing Head	terracotta	13th-15th century
99/422	African; Jenne, Mali	Seated Figure Headless	terracotta	12th-14th century
99/421	African; Jenne, Mali	Head	terracotta	12th-14th century
97/197	African; Djenne, Mali	Pendant Mask	bronze	13th-14th century
97/196	African; Grebo Tribe, Liberia	Bust	wood, brass, fibre	1930 c
97/195	African; Ekoi, Nigeria	Staff	wood, pigment, glass, skin, teeth	1940 c
97/194	African; Kota Tribe, Gabon	Reliquary Figure Bifacial	wood, brass, copper, iron	late 18th-early 19th century
97/193	African; Kanyoka, Zaire	Male Standing Figure	ivory	late 18th-early 19th century
97/192	African; Luluwa, Zaire	Standing Female Figure	wood, red pigment	19th century
97/191	African; Luluwa, Zaire	Standing Female Figure	wood, traces of koalin	19th century
97/190	African; Ovimbundu, Angola	Standing Female Figure	wood, beads	19th century
97/189	African; Lengola, Zaire	Staff	wood	19th century
97/188	African; Tabwa or Ngbaka, Zaire	Female Figure	wood, brass, cloth, beads	19th century
97/187	African; Bokyi, Nigeria	Mask	wood, fabric, skin, raffia, paint, horsehair	1940 c
97/186	African; Ibo (?), Nigeria	Mmwo Mask	wood, kaolin, fabric	1935 c
97/185	African; Yoruba, Nigeria	Horse and Rider	wood, beads	early 20th century
97/184	African; Sherbro, Sierra Leone	Ancestor Figure (Nomoli)	soapstone	16th century (or earlier)
58/11.2	African	Koran Leaf		unknown

*Appendix B – Catalogue entries in Fagg c1981 which correspond to works in the A.G.O.'s collection*

Catalogue Number	Accession Number	Catalogue Number	Accession Number	Catalogue Number	Accession Number
1	99/421	17	99/473	31	99/460
2	97/184	18	97/187	32	99/479
3	99/471	19	99/474	39	97/188
5	99/472	20	2001/99	40	97/189
6	99/446	21	2001/100	43	99/461
7	99/445	22	99/456	44	97/190
9	99/451	23	99/475	47	99/466
11	99/452	24	99/457	48	97/191
13	99/453	25	99/476	49	97/192
14	99/454	26	2004/68	50	97/193
15	97/186	27	99/458	51	99/469
16	99/455	28	99/477	59	99/483

*Appendix C – Peoples represented in the A.G.O.'s collection*

The following peoples are represented by the African Art collection at the AGO:

**Country:** People [Sub-group]

- **Cameroon:** Bamileke, Bangwa, Bamum, Bemanda, Wum, Bafoussam
- **Gabon:** Kota [Mahongwe]
- **Ivory Coast:** Senufo, Yaure, We [Guerre], Baule
- **Mali:** Djenne (also spelt Jenne), Lere, Bankoni, Dogon, Bozo, Bambara
- **Nigeria:** Yoruba [Owo], Oron, Ekoi, Keaka,
- **Sierra Leone:** Kissi
- **Sudan:** Bongo
- **Zaire:** Bembe, Punu, Songye, Luba, Wongo, Lwalwa, Hemba, Yambula, Chowke