



Pipe bowl

Not on display

Title/Description: Pipe bowl

Born: 1850 - 1950

Object Type: Bowl

Materials: Wood

Measurements: h. 108 x w. 60 x d. 55 mm

Accession Number: 264

Historic Period: 19th Century - Late, 20th Century - Early

Production Place: Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Cultural Group: Luluwa

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

Besides beautiful standing figures with intricate scarifications, The Luluwa carve snuff-mortars and pipe-bowls which include some highly imaginative treatments of the human body. A second look at the little man forming the pipe-bowl shows that his thighs are absent; the forearms and elbows are supported by a downward continuation ending in the feet. The balance of parts is such that even when the missing thighs are noticed the figure still looks right.

The pipe stem would have been fairly thick, of hollowed wood with a cane mouthpiece. The man's head forms the bowl of the pipe, with a hole pierced through to the square perforation in his body to link to the stem.

Margret Carey, 1997

Entry taken from *Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Collection, Vol. 2: Pacific, African and Native North American Art*, edited by Steven Hooper (Yale University Press, 1997) p. 199.

Provenance

Purchased by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury from Alan Brandt in 1972.

Donated to the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia in 1973 as part of the original gift.
