



Standing figure

Not on display

Title/Description: Standing figure

Born: 1850 - 1899

Object Type: Figure

Materials: Elephant ivory

Measurements: h. 71 x w. 20 x d. 25 mm

Accession Number: 265

Historic Period: 19th Century - Late

Production Place: Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo

Cultural Group: Songye

Credit Line: Donated by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1973

The position of the arms and the hole in the crown of the head for 'medicine', or a small horn containing 'medicine', make a Songye attribution for this gnome-like little figure very possible, despite the absence of comparative material. The ring-and-dot marks forming the eyes and decorating the abdomen seem to indicate that East African Arab influence had by then reached that part of central Africa: a date after about 1850 seems likely.

The neuter figure may have been suspended by a thong or cord passing in front of the neck and under each arm.

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. 206.

Provenance

Purchased by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury from K. J. Hewett in 1968.

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