



Sceptre with male figure eating a root

Not on display

Title/Description: Sceptre with male figure eating a root

Born: 1900 c. - 1999 c.

Object Type: Implement

Materials: Elephant ivory, Organic matter

Measurements: h. 325 x w. 55 x d. 50 mm

Accession Number: 568

Historic Period: 20th century

Production Place: Africa, Congo, Kinshasha

Cultural Group: Kongo

This ivory sceptre is highly carved and depicts a seated male figure eating a root and holding a sheathed knife or sceptre. A snake is entwined round the base of the staff which clasps a lizard-like object in its teeth. The container which surmounts the sceptre was used to contain medicine, and a fragment of conus shell survives intact and may have originated from the Indian Ocean.

Helen Coleman

Entry written for VADS website (www.vads.ac.uk)

Provenance

Purchased by Robert and Lisa Sainsbury from Merton D. Simpson, New York in 1974.

Accessioned into the Sainsbury Centre, University of East Anglia circa 1989.
