

of website

1st draft

Lunda Crowns

typical
pretty good
provided

We don't need to know about European crowns - they are crowns, because they function like crowns
get rid of this - specify crowns in KV's ARCC collection
for rewrite

Formal Analysis Group 8

irrelevant

The simple qualification of the Lunda crowns suggests that they are objects to be worn on the crown, or top of the head. But the application of the Western understanding of a crown fails in comparison to these African headdresses. These crowns mimic a hat more than a wreath because once they are placed onto the head they cover much of the skull that would be exposed if using a British monarch's crown. Additionally, because the crown seems like it would be fashioned to encapsulate the wearer's head it use seems like it would be less restrictive to wear than the wreath-like crown that would sit unsteadily on the top of the wearer's head. Imagine two individuals wearing a wreath-like crown and a hat-like crown. The instability of the wreath makes the wearer walk around as if they are balancing books on their head, while the wearer of the Lunda crown is able to wear the crown with ease because its' form creates a cavity that is directly proportional to the wearer's head. But while the fit of the crown allows for better wearability, the use of beading (a status symbol) to decorate the entire surface of the crown would make the crown cultural equivalent to the bejeweled crowns worn by monarchs.

Start with a simple opening line that describes this object as a beaded crown from...

The beaded Lunda

Crown numbered 00.1703 is in the shape of a dome. It appears that the seaming that runs along the ridge of the apex down to the rim is what holds the two side of the crown together.

we don't need this

separately fashioned portions?

This seam not only holds the crown together, it also unites different triangular patterns that decorate the crown. On one side, black and red beads make isosceles triangles that are bordered by white beads making three separate rows of triangles. Starting with the row closest to the rim consists of 10 triangles; 5 red and 5 black, on the middle row, there are 9 triangles; 4 red and 5 black, on the row closest to the apex, there are 7 triangles, 3 red and 4 black. The white beads used to separate rows of triangles sandwiches a row of black beads, while two tiers of white beads separate red and black triangles. On the base of this side of the crown, black

Do not start your description with a theme. Give the overall structure first but

again start with the big picture (division into three horizontal registers) then onto the isosceles triangles

without the contemplation about European crowns

~~I need your photographs~~ OKV

upwards

triangles point away from the wearer (to the sky), while the red triangles point toward the wearer

(to the earth). The exception to these directions is at the seaming. The pattern of red and black triangles is continued, there are 17; 8 red and 9 black, but the directions of black and red triangles are reversed. On the other side of the crown, there is a triangle pattern, but it is made of black, white, and blue isosceles triangles. There are six rows of triangles; the four bottom rows closest to the rim are made of black and white triangles; black pointing up and white point down, numbering 20 (10 black and 10 white), 17 (9 black and 8 white), and two rows of 16 (8 black and 8 white). Red beads separate the row of 20 and 17, and double rows of red and white beads line the rim of the crown. The final two row closes to the seam are made of white triangles but the inconsistency in patterning between black and blue beads suggests that either the black beads were initially blue or that the crown maker ran out of black beads and had to use blue. The number of triangles on these last rows are 14 (7 black/blue and 7 white) and 13 (7 black/blue and 6 white). The patterning on the side of the seam is also different from the patterning on the base of the crown. Eleven varying colored triangles, bordered in white beads, are put into a row pointing toward the sky. The triangles closest to the rim on either side are red, and the patterning on both side follows as red, black, red, black, blue until a blue triangle meets at the crest of the seam. White beads form triangles, bordered by black beads, which separate the other triangles and are pointing towards the earth. At the center of each of the 10 white triangles are colored beads. In the two triangles that are at the crest of the seam, these beads are red, while the remaining 8 are blue. Finally, where the seam of the hat meets the rim are what looks to be handles that have a pattern of two rows of black and white triangles similar to the recently mentioned one, but are separated by one of row of black and one row of white beads. It should not go unnoticed that at the seaming of the apex of the hat, there are different patterns of beads

The

are reversed (?)

side of the crown

where?

made of triangles? here

they are

registers

triangles

triangles

number the registers (from bottom up reading)

add perhaps

find a better verb

This first crown looks a bit like Napoleon's hat. Is there a name for that?

lined in solitary rows which may have been used to line the seam. The rows include a row of red beads, a row of blue and white beads, a row of cyan colored beads, and a row of beads that are white but have red and white lines down the middle.

Lunda Crown E606 has a complicated structure. It takes a shape similar to top hat on top of a base. Like the other crown, there is a triangle pattern made by beads, as well as two handles that are attached to the base near the rim of the crown. On one side the isosceles triangles are done in white and black beads and white and blue beads on the other. On the side with the blue and white beads, on the base, triangles are bordered by the opposite color. There are three rows; the bottom row (closest to the rim) has 9 triangles (4 blue and 5 white) and the final two rows have 8 triangles each (4 white and 4 blue). The brim of the hat has a similar pattern of 9 triangles (5 blue and 4 white). All of the blue triangles on this side of the hat point to the ground and the white point to the sky. As the hat is turned, the handles that separate sides look like cuffs of a shirt. They have a black and white triangle pattern that mimic the pattern on the opposite side of the crown. The edges of each cuff are lined with beads; however on one cuff the beads are red, white, and black while the other is only white. Both cuffs have an appendage that is made of green and white beads. The pattern is made of rows of solid beading; white, green, white, green, white. A similar appendage hangs on the brim of the hat above the cuffs; however there are 4 rows of black and white beads. On the base of the other side of the crown a simple black and white triangular pattern makes up 3 rows and a final row on the brim of the crown. From the rim, each row is made of 13 triangles alternating from 7 black beads and 6 white beads to 7 white beads and 6 black beads until they reach the brim which has 11 triangles; 6 black and 5 white. All the black triangles point towards the ground, and the white triangles point to the sky. From an aerial position, the top hat takes a shape similar to a cup and saucer. On the under side of the saucer is the brim, but the top has

very minimal beading. There are two rows of white beads that encompass the center and two additional rows of white beads that border the middle "cup" of the crown. Between these two rows, the structure of the crown is exposed. It looks like a textile has been put over the possibly wood seaming. There are loose brown strings exposed on this part of the crown, but their material is unknown. Moving to the "cup" of the crown, there is a continued triangle pattern' however the pattern of black and white triangles is interrupted by singular lines of red beads that separate the white and black triangles of each row. The two rows of triangles run around the cup and are only impeded by two appendages that sport rows of black and white beads. On one there are red beads that line the tip. The bottom row of triangles on each side consists of 3 white triangles that point toward the sky and two black triangles that point toward the ground. The row above is made up of 2 white triangles and 1 black triangle. Three white lines of beads separate the bottom and top parts of the cup. The top part has one full row of black and white triangles and another row of triangles that are cut in half laterally because the cup ends. These final rows show the only deviation from the positioning of the triangles; the black point towards the sky and the white point towards the earth.

Crown 1: You need to start with the basic structure (insert diagrams) - domed structure constructed of textile/leather? over a basketry construction. Attached to it is a beaded band of ... width which spans the dome across its apex from one side to the other, etc.

