



# Standing figure

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**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

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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.

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## **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.

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