



Photo by Shantanu Kuveskar, found on Wikipedia

image searched 'hornbill' and I can see the beak shape is similar

Google

I googled "symbolisation of hornbill Dan People Ivory Coast" and found this

... the hornbill (the bird represented by gagon) is believed to be the first being created by Zia, the creator god of the Dan.

It belongs to the kagle (hooked-stick) group of masquerades, so named because the dancer holds hooked sticks which he whirls around at knee level making people jump out of the way. In the rapid whirling dance he frightens women and livestock and knocks pots over; meddling or conceited people may get punished, thus releasing village tensions.

Found this by searching "Dan People" on The Metropolitan Museum of Art website

Male performers, gle-zo, experience a dream sent by the mask spirit that allows them to dance it.



It's so different seeing the masks worn, not in a display case...

I youtube searched "Dan People Dance MASK"



DAN PEOPLE - MASK DANCE



He has a thick raffia skirt on his hips and a body covering of thick blue and white cloth; he may hold cowtail fly-whisks in each hand and be accompanied by drummers and singers.

This sceptre from West Africa is also thought to be a flywhisk.



Take a look at the 3D digital model of this object in our collection. Can you see where a cow tail might have been attached?

Might a flywhisk do more than get rid of insects?

The Dan believe the world is divided into two realms; the human realm, surrounded by the village and people, and the spirit realm, residing in the forest encompassed by spirits and wild animals.

from www.discoverafricanart.com, a shop set up by a collector of African Art.

"Liberia was founded by freed American slaves and still has strong American ties."

info and images from travel blog www.exploringwild.com

SAINSBURY CENTRE

design by Rose Feather



a hornbill postage stamp I found when searching "hornbill Liberia"

www.dorotheum.com an art auction house in Vienna



I image searched "mask Dan people Colobus monkey" and found this

image searched colobus monkey

The beak is normally edged with a long black fringe of colobus monkey fur; here the unfinished sides of the beak suggest that one was intended, so perhaps the mask was never occupied by a mask spirit.

I wonder why it was never used...



from dwf.org the Africa Wildlife Foundation

FIND OUT MORE about



feathers

cowrie shells

monkey fur

Title/Description: Dance mask, bird form
Materials: Wood
Accession Number: 608
Historic Period: 20th century
Production Place: Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia
Cultural Group: Dan
Credit Line: Purchased with support from Robert and Lisa Sainsbury, 1975

title given by Sainsbury Centre

an organisation sharing knowledge about the origin and use of African Art. www.imodara.com

Why use cowrie shells?

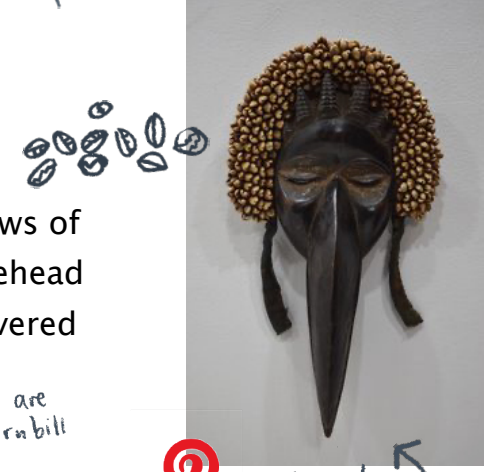
The gegon dancer wears rows of cowrie shells above the forehead and a tall cylindrical hat covered with feathers.

I wonder if the feathers are from the hornbill too?

The cowrie shell was one of the most successful and universal forms of currency in the world.

The cowrie is a protective charm (gris-gris) adorning the outfits of hunters and warriors, woven into sacred masks and costumes for dance ceremonies.

www.culturesofwestafrica.com



Pinterest search

Map showing West Africa found on...



Liberia

Gegon is a male masquerade, found exclusively among the northern Dan.

'Dan' is the name of a group of people from the Ivory Coast of Africa.

I wonder what it's like travelling to Liberia?

I found this information on Wikipedia.

