



# **Ankore Cultural Drama Actors' Mobile Museum**

**Main items in the collection – a catalogue**

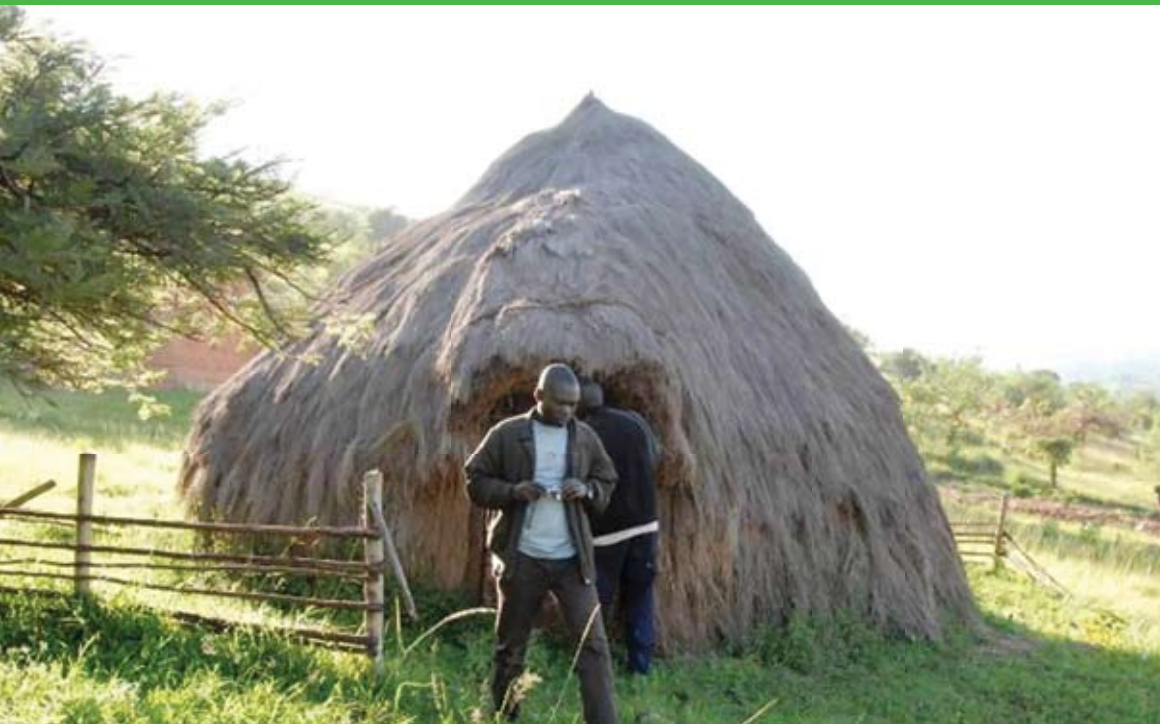
**2012**

# The mobile museum of the Ankore Cultural Drama Actors

In many parts of Uganda, community museum owners, supporters and managers, passionate about culture and heritage, have collected artefacts, oral history, and other elements of the local culture. Community museums also link past and future through their collections, which are accessible to schools, local residents and those from farther away.

The Ankore Cultural Drama Actors' Museum was started in 2007. The grass-thatched museum preserves cultural objects of the Banyankore people in South-western Uganda. The Banyankore are known for their love of cattle and milk products. Much of the Ankore culture revolves around the cow.

The museum is however mobile: objects are taken to schools to teach young people about the traditional lifestyles of the Banyankore. Artefacts are also transported to community centres to encourage adults in appreciating and promoting their cultural heritage.



*The museum is located at Kagarama Parish, 10 km off the Mbarara-Isingiro road in South-western Uganda. For further information, contact*

*Ankore Cultural Drama  
Actors' Mobile Museum.  
P.O. Box 616, Mbarara  
Tel: +256776121945/  
0752-435583  
Email: tukundane@yahoo.com*

**1. Endosho (Runyankore) – Spoon**

*Wooden spoon; Ankore: 28cm long*

(See detailed descriptions at the end of the catalogue)



**2. Orurembe (Runyankore) – Salt container**

*Elongated gourd with lid and straw handle; South-western Uganda; 26cm*



**3. Endiiri (Runyankore) –  
Millet bread basket**

*Woven basket; dried and dyed palm  
leaves and mid-ribs of banana leaves;  
South-western Uganda; 21cm high*



**4. Enkyanzi/Enkongooro (Runyankore) -  
Milk vessel**

*Wooden vessel with lid from selected timber (omusisa);  
South-western Uganda; 21 cm high*





**5. Ekicunga (Runyankore) – Smoking pot**

*Clay vessel with lip and aperture;  
South-western Uganda; 9cm high*



**6. Orugunda (Runyankore) - Beer gourd**

*Gourd with elongated neck and straw handle;  
South-western Uganda; 51cm long*





**7. Enceka (Runyankore) – Gourd**

*Decorated gourd; South-western Uganda; 54 high*



**8. Ekikoro (Runyankore) –  
Medium gourd for porridge/milk**

*Gourd with flat bottom and small neck; Ankore; 113cm*



**9. Akaato (Runyankore) – Small beer brewing vessel**

*Hollowed out tree trunk with wide opening and two protruding ends; South-western Uganda; 54cm length*



**10. Rukomyo (Runyankore) –  
Fragrance pot**

*Clay pot with three openings; Ankore; 25cm high*



**11. *Ekyotezo (Runyankore)* –  
Pot for perfuming clothes**

*Clay pot with three openings,  
South-western Uganda; 25cm high*



## 12. *Obutiiti (Runyankore)* – Waist beads

*Small stringed multi-coloured beads; Ankore; 37cm diameter.*





**13. Amooshe (Runyankore) - Armlet**

*Hair from buffalo's tail with beads;  
Ankore; 29cm diameter*





**14. Entego (Runyankore) – Enema Gourd**

*Gourd with two holes; Ankore; 25cm high*



**15. Ekirumiko (Runyankore) – Blood sucking instrument**

*Tip of cow's horn, South-western and Western Uganda; 25cm high*



**16. Engozi (Runyankore) - Stretcher**

*Traditional stretcher; South-western Uganda; forest creepers and timber handles; 193cm long*



**17. Omuhoro (Runyankore) - Sickle**

*Metal sickle with wooden handle; South-western Uganda; 47cm long*



**18. *Emyambi* (Runyankore) - Arrow**

*Wooden stem; metal tip with barbs; South-western Uganda; 58cm high*



**19. Engoma (Runyankore) - Drum**

*Cow skin and wood; Ankore; 32cm high*





## 20. *Endingiri (Runyankore)* - Harp

*Single string instrument with cow horn sound box covered with monitor lizard skin, wood and fur from cow's tail, South-western Uganda; 47cm long*





**21. Enyungu y'etaabe (Runyankore) - Tobacco pipe**

*Clay pipe with wooden handle, South-western Uganda; 20cm long*



**1.** The wooden *endosho* was used by the head of the family, specifically to serve meat to other family members. Women were forbidden to use the *endosho* (or any other utensil) to serve meat, according to Ankore traditional culture.

*Collected by Ignatius Kato*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October, 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.01*

**2.** Used to keep salt in the kitchen and hung to prevent misuse by children.

*Collected by Valentino Kahangire*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.06*

**3.** The *endiiro* is used to preserve and to serve food prepared with millet flour, especially to special guests such as in-laws. Before the use of the *endiiro*, a common serving dish was utilised (*ekitemere*). However, because of hygienic concerns, individual and small serving dishes - the *endiiro* - were introduced and are still in wide use today.

*Collected by Valentino Kahangire*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.09*

**4.** The *enkyanzi* is used by most cattle keepers. A hole is made by experienced artisans resulting in a jug-like vessel with thin walls and a flat round bottom. The jug is used to serve milk to family members and visitors. The *ekyanzi/enkongooro* is inverted onto the *ekicunga* (object Nr. 5) to smoke it and obtain a pleasant scent. The *enkongooro* and other milk vessels are usually kept on a platform (*orugyeegye*), off the floor.

*Collected by Seperanza Kenyana*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October, 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.44*

**5.** Used by pastoralists all over Uganda, scented grass (*Obwitizo*) is stuffed in the pot and hot charcoal placed on top of it to produce smoke. A milk pot is then inverted onto the *ekicunga* thanks to its ring to produce a pleasant flavour.

*Collected by Seperanza Kenya*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*11th October, 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.41*

**6.** Used by the heads of families to drink banana beer. Only men were allowed to own and drink from an *orugunda*.

*Collected by Valentino Kahangire*  
*Source: I. Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.07*

**7.** The *enceka* was used for different purposes, including drinking millet porridge or beer made from fermented banana juice. Bypassers asking for water could also be served, using the *enceka*. In a house, every family member was expected to own an *enceka*.

*Collected by Seperanza Kenya*  
*Source: I. Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.11*

**8.** The *ekikoro* is/was used for keeping and drinking millet porridge and milk among the Banyankore

*Collected by Seperanza Kenya*  
*Source: I. Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*11th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2011.45*

**9.** This vessel is/was used to mix banana juice with sorghum to produce a drink commonly known as 'tonto', a traditional beer among the Banyankore, Baganda and other communities in Uganda. The two protruding ends help in handling the *akaato*.

*Collected by Anatoli Kabateraine*  
*Source: I. Kato, Museum initiator,*  
*11th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.40*

**10.** The *rukomyo* is/ was used by Banyankore women, especially brides, who would squat on it. Sweet smelling herbs and shrubs are/ were placed inside the pot and mixed with hot water to produce a fragrance with water vapour to perfume the woman's body, clothes and room.

*Collected by Seperanza Kenya*  
*Source: I. Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*11th October 2011*  
*Accession: 2010.04*

**11.** Used by Banyankore and Bakiga women to smoke fragrant shrubs or leaves, to perfume *enkiindi* and *enkanda* (animal skins worn as clothes).

*Collected by Seperanza Kenya*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*11th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.37*

**12.** It was common practice in Ankore for married women to wear beads around their waists to appeal to their husbands. Young women were taught to use these beads to entice their spouses.

*Collected by Seperanza Kenya*  
*Source: I. Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*11th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.12*

**13.** *Amooshe* were - and still are - worn by women around their necks and arms to enhance their beauty.

*Collected by Anatoli Kabateraine*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*11th October, 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.39*

**14.** This type of gourd was exclusively used by Banyankore women to administer enemas to treat stomach aches and other illnesses. Women would withdraw from the homestead in the evenings, fill the gourd and insert the mouth of the *entego* into the anus.

*Collected by Elvoles Timanywa*  
*Source: I. Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.03*

**15.** Used by most communities in South-western and Western Uganda to suck “bad blood” from a patient by an experienced traditional doctor. The *ekirumiko* was also used to cure persistent headaches and to clear blocked blood vessels. A small prick was made where pain was felt and the blood sucked out until it subsided.

*Collected by Ignatius Kato*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*11th October, 2011*  
*Accession number: 2011.42*

**16.** The *engozi* was commonly used by Banyankore and Bakiga to carry critically ill persons and expecting mothers to clinics and hospitals by four men.

*Collected by Ignatius Kato*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*11th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.12*

**17.** The curved head was sharpened to cut grass while clearing a new field for cultivation. The *omuhoro* was also used to cut roofing grass by the Banyankore and Bakiga

*Collected by Anatoli Kabateraine*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October, 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.02*

**18.** Used with a bow for hunting game. Hunting was a traditional source of livelihood for many families. Also used by animal poachers.

*Collected by Anatoli Kabateraine*  
*Source: I. Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.08*

**19.** Today, the drum is used for different purposes including mobilisation for community work (*burungi bwansi*). It was also used in the past to communicate messages from the royal palace and village chiefs in case of any danger. According to Ankore culture, the drum was/is normally made and sounded by men.

*Collected by Ignatius Kato*  
*Source: Ignatius Kato, Museum Initiator,*  
*10th October, 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.05*

**20.** Mainly played by Banyakore, traditionally to entertain newly married couples and their guests, and during other public functions.

*Collected by: Kahangire Valentino*  
*Source: Kato Ignatius, Museum Initiator*  
*11th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.10*

**21.** Used by Banyankore men to pass time, relax or mull over problems, it was normally stuffed with tobacco, with cinders from a fire placed on top to produce smoke.

*Collected by: Kahangire Valentino*  
*Source: Kato Ignatius, Museum Initiator*  
*10th October 2011*  
*Accession number: 2010.10*

Throughout Uganda, inspired individuals, families and groups of people have established *community museums* open to the public to preserve and promote the local cultural heritage.

This catalogue, one of a series for 11 community museums across Uganda, highlights the most important items held by the Mobile Museum of the Ankore Cultural Drama Actors in Isingiro District.

It is meant to publicise and record the collection, as well as to act as a reference point, reflecting Uganda's cultural diversity.

The catalogue was produced by the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, an organisation dedicated to promoting the recognition of culture as vital for human development that responds to Uganda's national identity and diversity. As part of its cultural heritage programme, the Foundation supports community museums in Uganda.

The Foundation gratefully acknowledges the cooperation of community museums operators and managers throughout the country. It also thanks the Prince Claus Fund for Culture and Development for the financial support that made this documentation of our heritage possible.

[www. crossculturalfoundation.or.ug](http://www.crossculturalfoundation.or.ug)

