

Igongo Cultural Centre Museum



Main items in the collection – a catalogue

2012



The Igongo Cultural Centre Museum near Mbarara

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 Igongo Cultural Centre Museum was established in 2009 to preserve and promote the cultural and natural heritage of the people of South-Western Uganda. The museum is divided into three sections: skills; family and community;

clans and social organisations. One section showcases the politics and leadership (pre-colonial, colonial & post colonial) of Ankole, and includes a hall of fame. A cultural village adjacent to the museum exhibits the architectural design of houses of the people of South-Western Uganda.



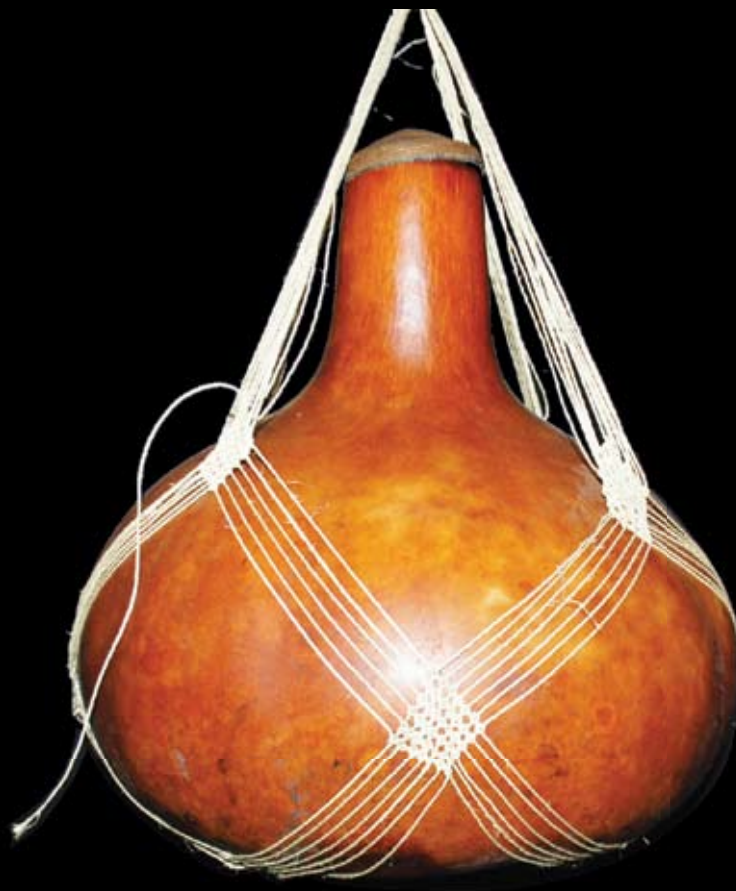
The Igongo Cultural Centre Museum is located at Biharwe, 10km before Mbarara town, on the Kampala road, close to Lake Mburo National Park. For more information, contact:

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**1. Ekishaabo (Runyankore) -
Milk churning gourd**

*Gourd, harnessed with nylon/cotton
threads; South-western Uganda;
45cm high*

(See detailed descriptions at the end of the catalogue)



**2. *Ekicunga* (Runyankore) –
Pot for smoking milk vessels**

*Clay pot with lip and aperture;
South-western Uganda; 17cm high.*



**3. Kamunyunywire (Runyankore)-
Gourd for Kamunyunyiire Deity**

*Small gourd decorated with white
beads around its neck,
South-western Uganda; 16cm high*



4. Ekigagara (Runyankore) - Brazier

*Basket woven with twigs, banana fibres
and covered with bark cloth,
South-western Uganda;
30cm wide*



5. Omurebe (Runyankore) - Cow bell

*Metal bell with ring,
South-western Uganda; 7cm high*



6. Orugusyo (Runyankore) - Roasting pot

Decorated pot cushioned by a ring made of dry banana fibre, South-western Uganda; 36cm diameter



**7. Eikondere (Runyankore) -
Trumpet**

*Elongated and decorated gourd;
South-western Uganda; 30cm long*



**8. Enyungu y'amaizi (Runyankore) -
Water pot**

*Decorated clay water pot cushioned
by a ring made of dry banana fibres;
South-western Uganda;
35cm high*



**9. Entuuba y'ekitaguriro (Runyankore)
- Drum**

*Clay drum cushioned by a ring of dry
banana fibres, with a lid made
of a cow's hide
South-western Uganda; 60cm high*



10. *Bagyendanwa (Runyankore)* – Replica of the Ankole royal drum

Drum; wood and cow's hide; South-western Uganda; 70cm high



**11. Ekyanzi (Runyankore) -
Milk vessel**

*Wooden, painted milk container,
South-western Uganda; 25cm high*



**12. Orutuuha (Runyankore) -
Beer gourd**

*Beer gourd for the head of the
family, South-western Uganda;
54cm high*



13. Entukuru (Runyankore) – Fish trap

Fishing trap made with creeping plants, South-western Uganda; 50cm long



14. Omukuri (Runyankore) - Flute

Wooden flute; South-western Uganda; 40cm long



**15. Ekirasho (Runyankore) -
arrow for
bleeding cow**

*Arrow with flat and sharp blade,
South-western Uganda;
35cm long*



16. Kanyantwarire (Runyankore) - Marriage basket

Ceremonial basket, papyrus, dry mid-rib of banana leaves; South-western Uganda; 60cm high



**17. Engabo (Runyankore) -
Shield**

*Wooden shield, South-
western Uganda; 77cm long*



**18. Entsimbo (Runyankore) -
Ghee gourd**

*Gourd for ghee,
South-western Uganda;
15cm high*



**19. Enyungu y'amarwa
(Runyankore) - Beer pot**

*Clay pot laced with dry
banana fibre, South-western
Uganda; 50cm high*



**20. Engozi (Runyankore)-
Traditional stretcher**

*Stretcher, 300cm long,
papyrus, reeds (ebigoro),
South-western Uganda*



1. The *ekishaabo* is used by cattle keepers to churn milk and obtain products such as ghee and sour milk or yoghurt. Women are normally responsible for churning milk.

Collected by John Mugisha, Mbarara District.

Source: Bosco Tabaaro,

Assistant Curator, 22.3.2012

Accession number: 2010.1.5

2. The *ekicunga* is used by cattle keepers to aromatise milk pots. The pot is designed so that its neck fits well into the milk pots. The milk pot is inverted and its opening placed on the lip of the *ekicunga*. The herbs in the *ekicunga* are lit and the pleasant scented smoke leaves a fragrance in the milk pot.

Donated by John Ssenkware,

Mbarara District

Source: Bosco Tabaaro,

Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012

Accession number: 2010.1.51

3. This is a gourd used and owned only by the *Abararira* clan to keep the *Kamunyunywire* deity. This sacred gourd is normally placed on the *orugyegye* (a platform where delicate milk containers are kept). The *orugyegye* is/was managed by one person (wife, mother or eldest daughter). Members of the *Abararira* clan ask the *Kamunyunywire* deity for blessings.

Collected by Keith Bananukye,

Kiruhura District

Source: Bosco Tabaaro,

Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012

Accession number: 2010.1.119

4. The *ekigagara* was used during the fumigation exercise for bark cloth, skins and hides to rid them of bad odours and parasites. Sweet smelling grass known as *emburara* was placed on hot charcoal to produce smoke. Women were normally responsible for weaving and maintaining the *ekigagara*.

*Collected by John Mugisha,
Mbarara District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.86*

5. A rope is strung through the ring on this bell and tied around the neck of a cow. It is/was used by cattle keepers to locate the whereabouts of the cows. Traditionally a bell would signify that one had acquired 100 cows. It was therefore a symbol of prestige. The strength, beauty and character of a cow would determine which animal would wear the bell in the kraal.

*Collected by John Mugisha,
Bushenyi District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.201*

6. This pot is used to carry hot charcoal, or to roast groundnuts and cereals such as sorghum and millet.

*Collected by: Elly Bampeire,
Bushenyi District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession numbers: 2010.1.54*

7. This trumpet was normally played by cattle herders while in the fields to avoid boredom. It was normally played by men. They used the *eikondere* to imitate birds and cattle sounds.

*Collected by Elly Bampeire,
Bushenyi District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.17*

8. This decorated clay pot is used to keep drinking water in a home.

Artist: Elly Bampeire, Bushenyi District

Source: Tabaaro Bosco,

Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012

Accession number: 2010.1.108

9. The drum is used for a specific type of dance called *ekitaguriro* peculiar to the Ankole and Kigezi regions in South-western Uganda. This drum is played during cultural galas, marriage ceremonies and any other traditional events including harvest festivals.

Donated to the museum

by Elly Bampeire,

Bushenyi District

Source: Bosco Tabaaro,

Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012

Accession number: 2010.1.53

10. The Ankole royal drums were used during the coronation of the King, in worship and divination by royal family members. The *bagyendanwa* was supposed to be sounded only by the King and it was always kept inside the Palace. The *bagyendanwa* was the main instrument of power and justice; it was believed to have been made by Wamara, the last Cwezi ruler. It was sounded at the installation of a King.

*Collected by James Tumusiime,
Mbarara District*

Source: Bosco Tabaaro,

Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012

Accession number: 2010.1.123

11. The container is used for storing and drinking milk by cattle keepers and serving milk to guests and in-laws. This type of pot is included in the *omugamba*, a collection of different pots hung on a stick, and given as a give-away gift to a bride during Kinyankore marriage ceremonies.

*Collected by Keith Bananukye,
Kiruhura District*

Source: Bosco Tabaaro,

Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012

Accession number: 2010.1.21

12. Such a gourd was used by the elders and heads of families to serve and drink beer.

*Collected by Elly Bampaire,
Bushenyi District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession numbers: 2010.1.13*

13. Traditional fishing gear to catch mud-fish and other species of small fish.

*Collected by John Mugisha,
Mbarara District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.83*

14. The *omukuri* is used for entertainment, especially by men. It was also used for communication to mobilize hunters.

*Collected by Elly Bampaire,
Bushenyi District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.124*

15. A special arrow used by pastoralists to bleed cows and obtain blood. Blood vessels around the neck of the cow are normally pieced to let blood out which is then collected. Pastoralists boiled the blood and ate it as food.

*Collected by John Mugisha,
May 2010, Mbarara District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.67*

16. This type of basket is used to carry millet or millet flour when visiting a recently married girl. It is still popular since it is given to every woman who is getting married traditionally. It is supposed to be woven by the bride-to-be.

*Collected by Elly Bampaire,
Bushenyi District
Source: Bosco Tabaaro,
Assistant Curator, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.120*

17. Wooden shield used by men to safeguard oneself during wars.

*Collected by Keith Bananukye,
Kashingi, Kiruhura District
Source: G. Akatuhebwa,
Museum Guide, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.201*

18. The *entsimbo* was/is used by cattle keepers for storing cow ghee. A woman would be expelled from the family if she broke the *entsimbo* because this was regarded as a bad omen and such a woman would not be a blessing to the family.

*Collected by Keith Bananukye,
Kashingi, Kiruhura District
Source: Glorious Akatuhebwa,
Museum Guide, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.12*

19. The pot was used for storing local beer. It was normally kept on shelves and only men were allowed to drink alcohol from it.

*Donated by Elly Bampaire,
Bushenyi District
Source: G. Akatuhebwa,
Museum Guide, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.141*

20. The *engozi* was used by people in the Ankole and Kigezi regions as a means of transporting brides, the sick or the dead.

*Donated by Bampaire Elly,
Bushenyi District
Source: G. Akatuhebwa,
Museum Guide, 22.03.2012
Accession number: 2010.1.74*

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 Igongo Cultural Centre Museum in Mbarara 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)

