



The Home of Edirisa Museum



Main items in the collection – a catalogue

2012

About the Home of Edirisa in Kabale

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 Home of Edirisa Museum was started by Omugurusi Festo Karwemera, known locally as the encyclopaedia of the Kikiga culture and language. At the home of Edirisa Museum, a traditional homestead is showcased, as well as

musical instruments, hunting tools and traditional healing techniques used by the Bakiga people. The museum has developed outreach activities to engage with young people and enhance heritage preservation and promotion.



The Home of Edirisa Museum (also known as Akehogoko ka Bakarwemera) is located in the centre of Kabale town, in South-Western Uganda. For further details contact:

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1. Eihungu (Rukiga) - Clay serving dish

*Clay serving dish, Kigezi;
25cm high, 20cm diameter*

(See detailed descriptions at the end of the catalogue)



2. Eihungu (Rukiga) - Wooden Bowl

Wooden dish with handles, lid; Kigezi; 25cm high



3. *Eihungu* (*Rukiga*) - Plate

Wooden plate with two compartments; Kigezi; 35cm long



**4. Engyemeko (Rukiga) -
Pot for warming water**

*Clay pot with designs, Kigezi;
35cm high*



5. Eicuba (Rukiga) – Water container

*Wooden water container;
Kigezi; 38cm high*



**6. Ensimbo (Rukiga) –
Vessel for ghee**

Gourd for ghee, Kigezi; 15cm high



**7. Orunywero (Rukiga) -
Beer drinking vessel**

*Clay pot covered with
woven papyrus;
Kigezi; 80cm high*



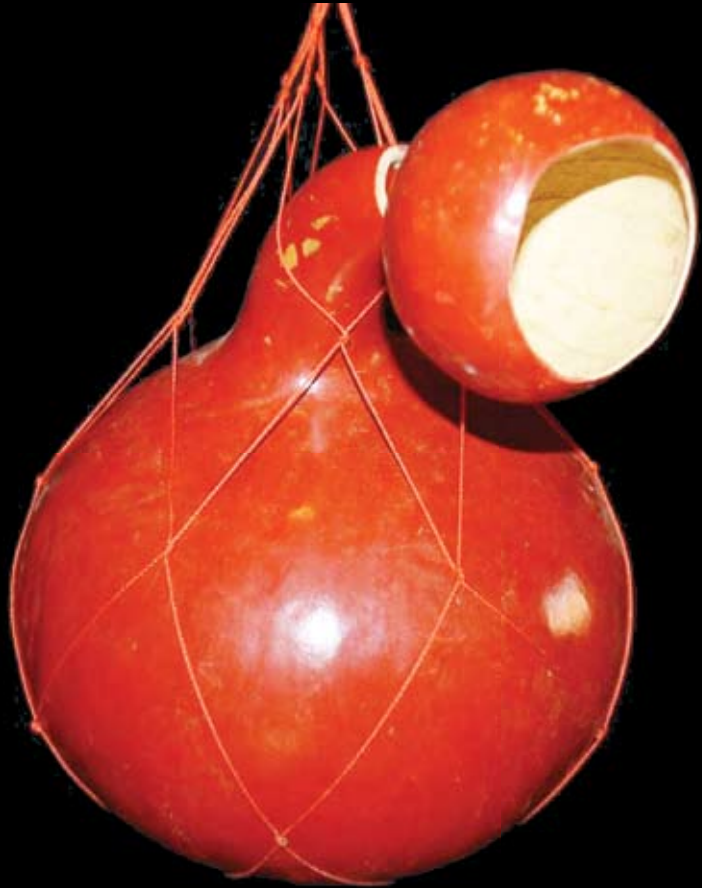
8. Orwabya (Rukiga) - Cooking pot

Clay pot on 3 stones, Kigezi; 31cm high



**9. Ekishaabo (Rukiga) -
Milk churning gourd**

*Milk churning gourd with funnel,
suspended with strings;
Kigezi; 45cm high*



10. *Ecicubankari* (*Rukiga*) - Urine container

Wooden urine container; Kigezi; 45cm long



**11. Ekitwaro (Rukiga) –
Clothes basket**

*Basket made out of bamboo reeds
with colour patterns,
Kigezi; 70cm*



12. Ensanga (Rukiga) - Umbrella

*Umbrella made out of banana fibres
and bamboo ribs;
Kigezi; 120cm high*



13. Oruteete (Rukiga) - Sorghum harvesting Basket

Basket made of twigs; Kigezi; 65cm high



14. Entaara (Rukiga) - Winnowing tray

Tray, forest creepers smeared with cow dung; Kigezi; 64cm diameter



15. Ekihompo (Rukiga) - Sword

*Sword with wooden handle
and sheath; Kigezi; 21cm long*



**16. Orunana (Rukiga) -
Walking stick**

*Walking and protection stick;
metal with wooden handle; Kigezi;
90cm long*



17. Enanga (Rukiga) - Zither

Wooden base, 9 nylon strings; Kigezi; 60cm long



18. Nzamba (Rukiga)-Trumpet

Buffalo horn, holed and trimmed at tip: Kigezi; 35cm long



19. Orunyegye (Rukiga) - Rattle

*Twig with small bells filled with
beads; Kigezi;
45cm high*



20. Oruhazo (Rukiga) - Knife

*Knife; wooden handle and coiled
metal blade;
Kigezi; 40cm long*



1. This type of dish was used to serve vegetables and meat to the family head (*Nyineka*) and to important visitors, showing them respect. Younger family members would use a larger, common dish. The *eihungu* was inverted on a stick in a corner of the house to dry after washing up.

*Collected by Festo Karwemera, 1970s,
Nyakagyera, Kigezi
Source: Festo Karwemera,
Museum Initiator,
23rd March 2012*

2. This wooden bowl was used to serve soup to the *Nyineka* (head of the family) and showed respect. In the same way, the *eihungu* had to be cleaned by the *Nyinenju* (wife), not by children.

*Collected by Festo Karwemera, 1979,
Bugarama-muyebe village, Kabale district
Source: Festo Karwemera,
Museum Initiator,
23rd March 2012*

3. This type of plate was used by family heads, as the rest of the family members used to eat from a single large dish. One compartment was used for the staple food, the other for stew.

*Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Tour Guide,
13th October 2011*

4. This pot was used to warm water for the head of the family.

Collected by F. Karwemera, 1980,
Nyakagyera, Kigezi

Source: Festo Karwemera, Museum Initiator,
23rd March 2012

5. The *eicuba* was used to fetch water from wells by children and women.

Collected by Festo Karwemera

Source: Bright Owen,
Museum tour guide,
13th October 2011

6. The *entsimbo* is used for storing ghee, especially by cattle keepers. A woman would be expelled from the family if she broke the *entsimbo* as this was interpreted as a sign of carelessness. Because every household had to have cows and milk, a woman would also feel ashamed if she moved from one home to another looking for ghee. All women in the region were therefore expected to have an *entsimbo* with ghee in their households.

Collected by Festo Karwemera, 1979;

Nyarushanje, Kigezi

Source: Festo Karwemera, Museum Initiator,
23rd March 2012

7. The *orunywero* was used as a beer (*omuramba*) drinking vessel. Its size allowed an entire family or community group to drink together and emphasized togetherness. Because of its size, children were forbidden from drinking from this vessel for fear of drowning. Unmarried boys were also not allowed to sit with old people around the vessel; they would drink while standing.

Collected by F. Karwemera

Source: Festo Karwemera, Museum Initiator,
12th October 2011

8. This type of pot was used to boil meat and other long cooking foodstuffs among the Bakiga. With the introduction of metal saucepans, pots were abandoned yet food or meat boiled in a pot not only gives it a good flavour, it also cooks fast and saves on fuel (firewood), according to F. Karwemera.

Collected by F. Karwemera
Source: Festo Karwemera, Museum Initiator,
12th October 2011

9. This type of gourd is used to churn milk in order to produce ghee, often a task of older women.

Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Tour Guide,
13th October 2011

10. The *ecicubankari* was used as urinal in the home, especially at night by children, women and the sick, for fear of wild animals outsides.

Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Tour Guide,
13th October 2011

11. The *ekitwaro* was used to keep the most precious cloths or skins, especially for women. At times, it was also used to preserve ghee obtained from churned milk.

Collected by F. Karwemera
Source: Owen Bright, Museum Tour Guide,
12th October 2011

12. The *ensanga* was used as to protect one self from rain and sunshine. This umbrella was mainly used by herdsmen and by those with fields far from their homes.

Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Tour Guide,
13th October 2011

13. The *oruteete* was used for harvesting sorghum, one of the staple foods for Bakiga people. This type of basket was preferred to closed bags since sorghum stems could not pierce it. It was also used to soak sorghum for brewing *bushera*, a popular sorghum drink among the Bakiga.

Collected by F. Karwemera
Source: Festo Karwemera, Museum Initiator,
12th October 2011

14. This type of tray was/is used for winnowing grains such as sorghum, maize, groundnuts and millet. The winnowing tray is mainly used by women and children.

Collected by F. Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Tour Guide,
13th October 2011

15. This sword was mainly used by family heads for protection, especially against dangerous animals during long journeys through forests. It was also used in fights.

Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Festo Karwemera, Museum Initiator,
12th October 2011

16. The lower part of the iron rod is moon-shaped and used for protection in case one was confronted by wild animals or other threats. The *orunana* was also normally used by proud and well-to-do family heads as a day-to-day walking stick.

Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Guide,
13th October 2011

17. The *enanga* is mainly a story-telling or poem-reciting instrument and it accompanies some dances in Kigezi. While the elderly played this instrument often on their own, younger Bakiga would entertain themselves with the *enanga* in small groups.

Collected by F. Karwemera, Rubanda.
Source: Festo Karwemera, Museum Initiator,
12th October 2011

18. Used to communicate important messages to the community/village members, including sounds of warning, such as when a community was invaded by evil spirits or foreign forces.

Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Tour Guide,
13th October 2011

19. Among the Bakiga, the *orunyegye* was/is commonly used by traditional healers to attract the sick and show them their extraordinary powers by shaking it. The *orunyegye* was usually kept in a shrine and exclusively used by a medium of a spirit or a healer. In other communities, the *orunyegye* is used as a music instrument.

Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Tour Guide,
13th October 2011

20. The *oruhazo* was/is used to remove the remains from the inside of animal skins prior to drying as hides. To this day, the *oruhazo* is exclusively used by men, as women are not usually allowed to slaughter animals.

Collected by Festo Karwemera
Source: Bright Owen, Museum Guide
13th October 2011

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 Home of Edirisa Museum in Kabale.

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 the country's national identity and diversity. As part of its cultural heritage programme, the Foundation supports community museums in Uganda.

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

