

## Reliquary figure (byeri), Fang Peoples (Cameroon), wood and brass sheets, 58.4 centimeters

### Function:

This figure sits on top of the relic. Without the relic, this figure loses its power.

### Function:

Used in initiation rights for young people's coming of age ceremony.

### Form:

Similar to the medieval time period, the Fang people focused more on the concept, not the outward appearance.

### Context:

Relics weren't buried because the Fang peoples were nomadic. So, they created containers and placed these figures on top of them.

### Content:

This figure depicts a talisman that provides protection from evil, brings good luck, and has supernatural properties.

### Content:

Usually, remains of relevant community members or ancestors were placed in here with medicine.

### Form:

The figure is very geometric, and is made up of simple shapes.

### Content:

This figure shows Africa's religious view on life and death.



### Content:

The Fang peoples believe that infants and ancestors are closely related. The features of ancestors and infants are usually combined in these figures

### Content:

The figure's features are made of brass or copper alloy. Those materials represent high status, because they are associated with long distance trade.

Citations:

Image:

"Fletcher Humanities | D. S. McNeill." *Fletcher Humanities | D. S. McNeill*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Mar. 2016.

Information:

"Fang Reliquary Figure." *Khan Academy*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Mar. 2016.

"Reliquary Guardian Figure (Eyema-o-Byeri)." *Brooklyn Museum: Arts of Africa*. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Mar. 2016.