

# Bring an African Object Day

16<sup>th</sup> February 2024

# Over Zoom

- Vik showed us a fine Wakamba Carving and a picture of a charging Elephant in the setting sun
- Sheila showed a Chombe tea packet, recently received from Malawi
  - In the past imported varieties were prized, now local varieties are promoted
- Clare showed a Congolese figure of a hunter complete with spear and pipe. She acquired this when visiting Bwindi in Uganda, close to the border with Congo

# Over Zoom - Mo

- Mo showed an image of an African mother and baby, deeply embossed in leather.
- She did not know where it came from, Vik said he had seen something like it in northern Sudan



Diane showed a painting of a  
Dhow, from a trip she had made

## Dhows on the Swahili Coast



# Robin

- Robin recalled an assignment in Ethiopia in the time of Emperor Haile Selassie
- The security situation had led to him having spare time in Addis
- He had seen the Emperor's lions and acquired this Lion of Judah tapestry



# Alan

- Alan had always wanted a Kora and finally acquired one in Cambridge market
  - 'A calabash and a stick = a Kora '
- 20 strings, pentatonic tuning
  - Fishing line strings, would be gut
- Separate document with play list



# Jane

- In 1975, Jane and her husband had travelled from Kenya to Zanzibar
- On the way they had acquired a magnificent Makonde statue



# Terry

- Terry showed us a flint tool acquired in Accra and a Kuba cloth embossed with Cowrie shells from the DRC (Congo)



# Peter Wiles

- Peter recalled being in the Masai Mara in Kenya when the great Wildebeest migration started
- A mother elephant had gone down to river leaving her baby on a small hill. The migration separated the two until the mother charged her way through
- The carving is a reminder



# Ricky

- Ricky showed some Zulu tools from Natal
- The pipe was used to smoke grass – it could only be used by men over the age of thirty



# Peter Woodsford

- Peter showed two religious objects from Ethiopia
- Every centre has its own pattern of cross. The miniature cross is from Lalibela. In a service we attended in the Bieta Maryam church the priest touched sufferers seeking healing with a full-sized such cross
- The miniature altar piece came to us via the charity organised by Rev. John Binns of Great St. Mary's



# Lorna

- Lorna showed a necklace and cross given to her by the Tuareg mothers of her students when she was teaching in Niger
- In those days the Tuareg were friendly, nowadays they have been alienated



# Mike

- Wearing his Nigerian shirt, Mike showed a Bronze from Benin (age unknown)



# Frances

- Frances showed 4 sizes of Calabash from the Yoruba area of Nigeria
- The largest is a simple cooking implement used by the women, who do all the work
- The ornamental ones are for the men



# Do Africa Forum members live in African Museums?

